

UNIT 618

CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK

GENERAL PLAN

April 1986

CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

George Deukmejian, Governor
Gordon Van Vleck, Secretary for Resources
Wm. S. Briner, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation

June 1986

CUYAMACA RANCHO S.P.
GEN PLAN / JUNE 1986

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 2390, SACRAMENTO 95811



Resolution 19-86.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in San Diego on
April 11, 1986

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has presented to this Commission for approval the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Preliminary General Plan; and

WHEREAS, this reflects the long-range development plans providing for the optimum use and enjoyment of the unit as well as the protection of its quality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Park and Recreation Commission approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Preliminary General Plan, dated January 1986, subject to such environmental changes as the Director of Parks and Recreation shall determine advisable and necessary to implement the provisions and objectives of said plan.

On page 70 substitute the first sentence under Lucky 5 Ranch to read, "The present owners have no interest in selling the Lucky 5 Ranch; however, if the situation should change, the acquisition of this ranch would be a valuable addition to the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park."

On page 45 substitute the second sentence under Descanso Area to read, "The stone house in the area would be retained; however, the frame house would be removed, pending the findings of historic structures reports."

On page 70 insert "Adopt a Trail Program" under Current Volunteer Organizations.

On page 19 substitute the following for the last sentence in the Declaration of Purpose: "Research, management planning, and execution shall take into account the full enjoyment of the park by visitors for whom the park is intended."

On page 26, substitute the following for the fourth paragraph: "The City-County school camp and the Boy Scout camp may have inadvertently contributed in the past to the damage of archeological resources in the park. The Boy Scout camp is located very near a prehistoric resource that has suffered damage from camp activities. The location of this and other sites were relatively unknown until very recently and resource management procedures have changed dramatically in recent years. The City-County school camp used to conduct hikes to significant cultural sites, where surface collecting took place. Department management was aware of these activities in previous years, but, for various reasons, did not take action to stop them from occurring."

On page 32 substitute the following for the first paragraph under Policy: "It shall be the objective of the department to mitigate and eliminate, if necessary, any recreational activities and facilities from the park which do not directly enhance the enjoyment of the park's primary resource values."

On page 32 substitute the following for the second paragraph under Policy:
"The department encourages park use by youth groups for nature study and outdoor recreation. Recognizing the value of outdoor education and the goals and purposes of these two long-term lessees, it is the intention of the department to renew the leases of the school camp and the Boy Scout camp. The department shall prepare a report which evaluates the activities and facilities of both youth camps and which makes recommendations for keeping those facilities and activities in line with departmental objectives."

On page 68 omit "if and" from the last sentence in Item 7.

The Commission adopted a motion to indicate its support of the use of the properties needed by the Descanso School District and the Descanso Community Water District.

ADDENDA FOR CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK
GENERAL PLAN

The preliminary General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park contains several sections for which factual updating is required. As part of the CEQA review for this document, the following information is provided to help update the plan.

On page 11, the sixth paragraph refers to rare and endangered plants at Cuyamaca. We have spent quite a bit of time recently surveying the park for rare plants. Paragraph 6 should be changed to read as follows:

Fifteen plants listed by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) as rare and endangered occur in the park. Two of these plants, Limnanthes gracilis var. parishii (Parish's meadowfoam) and Downingia concolor var. brevior (Cuyamaca Lake downingia), are listed by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) as endangered. Two others are listed by DFG as rare. These are Calochortus dunnii (Dunn's Mariposa lily) and Delphinium hesperium ssp. cuyamacae (Cuyamaca larkspur). The other eleven plants are Astragalus oocarpus (Descanso milk vetch), Brodiaea orcuttii (Orcutt's brodiaea), Caulanthus simulans (Payson's caulanthus), Cupressus stephensonii (Cuyamaca cypress), Grindelia hallii (Cuyamaca gumplant), Hulsea californica (Laguna mountain sunflower), Linanthus orcuttii (Orcutt's linanthus), Rubus glaucifolius var. ganderi (Cuyamaca raspberry), Senecio ganderi (Gander's butterweed), Streptanthus bernardinus (Laguna mountains streptanthus), and Thermopsis macrophylla var. semota (velvety false lupine).

One additional plant, Heuchera leptomeria var. peninsularis (San Diego County alumroot), is considered by CNPS as rare and endangered in California but common elsewhere.

Strike out paragraph 7 on page 11 in its entirety.

On page 12, paragraph 2 on Animal Life should be reworded as follows:

The peregrine falcon, which is listed as endangered by the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has historically nested in the adjacent Cleveland National Forest lands. Currently, the U.S. Forest Service is involved in a program of reintroducing peregrine falcons on its lands in San Diego County. Another state and federally listed endangered species, the bald eagle, uses Cuyamaca Lake and the surrounding vicinity as wintering habitat. Habitat exists in the park for both of these species.

On page 12, paragraph 3 on Animal Life should be reworded as follows:

Several other species of wildlife are of special interest. Primarily because of habitat loss and human disturbance, these species' populations have declined significantly, and deserve attention in the planning of facilities and activities. They are the yellow breasted chat, sharp-shinned hawk, long eared owl, purple martin, grasshopper sparrow,

San Diego mountain king snake, white eared pocket mouse, and large blotched salamander. Other species of special interest have been noted in the immediate vicinity of the park and also deserve attention; these include the San Diego horned lizard, coastal black-tailed gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, and orange throated whiptail.

On page 23 in the middle of the page, under the heading "Rare and Endangered Plants," replace the first two paragraphs with the following:

Rare plants are found in many locations throughout Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. More information is needed on the management requirements of each rare or endangered species.

On page 23 at the bottom of the page, under the heading "Policy," replace the first two paragraphs with the following:

All rare and endangered plants in the park shall be protected and managed for their perpetuation. In particular, a plan shall be prepared for management and protection of the Cuyamaca cypress.

On page 25 at the top of the page, replace the paragraph under the heading "Protection of Special Interest Wildlife Species" to read as follows:

The peregrine falcon, spotted owl, golden eagle, Cooper's hawk, yellow breasted chat, sharp-shinned hawk, long eared owl, purple martin, grasshopper sparrow, San Diego mountain king snake, white eared pocket mouse, and large blotched salamander are park animals of special interest.

On Page 56, change the top paragraph, under the heading "Lives and Lifestyles Lost," to read as follows:

The independence of the Indians associated with the San Diego Mission and the ability of many of them to find work on ranches, in homes, and in the mines after the missions closed should be interpreted. Exhibits should also explain the conditions that allowed Indian people to continue living in the Cuyamaca area relatively undisturbed until the late 19th Century. However, the decimation of the Kumeyaay population and culture, as their land base was overrun by settlers, should not be neglected.

CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK

GENERAL PLAN

June 1986

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Governor

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Secretary for Resources

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Director

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
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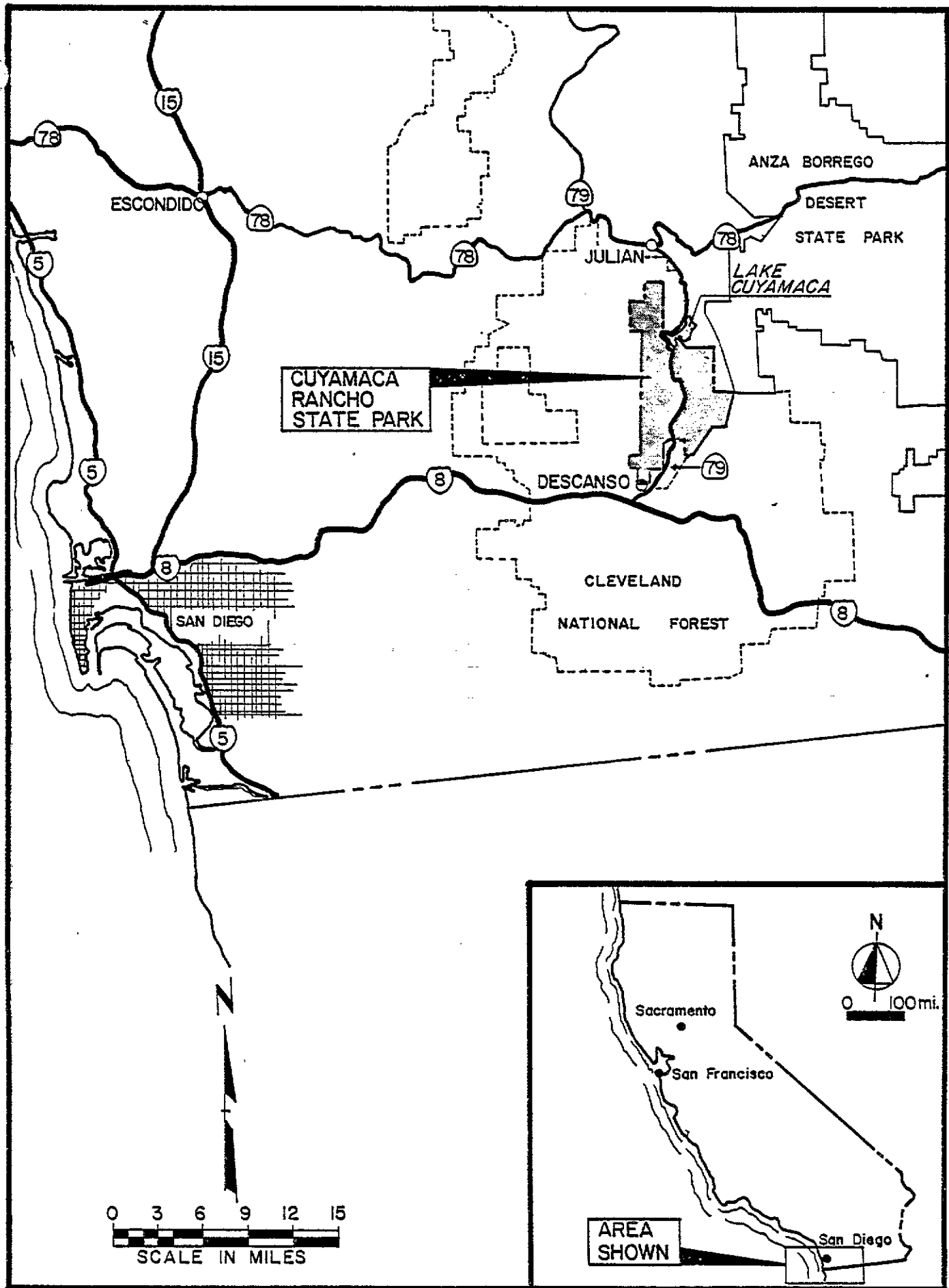
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INTRODUCTION

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is located in east central San Diego County, about 40 miles east of the San Diego Metropolitan Area. The park is 24,624 acres in size.

This unit of the State Park System features recreation resources that are unique in Southern California. More than half of the park has been classified as state wilderness, offering hiking, horseback riding, and primitive camping experiences well removed from the hustle and bustle of urban life. In addition, the park includes four cultural preserves that protect fragile Native American and Euroamerican resources, and make them available for visitor enjoyment.

This General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park was prepared to satisfy the requirements of Section 5002.2 of the State of California Public Resources Code. With approval by the state Park and Recreation Commission, the plan will guide the Department of Parks and Recreation in protection of the unit's natural and cultural resources, and in development of recreation facilities.



Map 1. State and Regional Location

VISITOR SUPPORT FACILITIES SUMMARY

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Current Capacity</u>	<u>PROPOSED ADDITIONS</u>	
		<u>Approx. Minimum</u>	<u>Approx. Maximum</u>
Lakeside Family Camp	0	20 sites	30 sites
Paso Picacho Family Camp	85 sites	20 sites	30 sites
Green Valley Family Camp	<u>81 sites</u>	<u>15 sites</u>	<u>25 sites</u>
TOTAL	166 sites	55 sites	85 sites
<hr/>			
S.E.A.L. Group Camp	0	70 pers.	100 pers.
Paso Picacho Group Camp	<u>120 pers.</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	120 pers.	70 pers.	100 pers.
<hr/>			
Los Caballos Family Equestrian Camp	16 sites	7 sites	15 sites
South End Area Family Equestrian Camp	<u>0</u>	<u>15 sites</u>	<u>30 sites</u>
TOTAL	16 sites	22 sites	45 sites
<hr/>			
Los Vaqueros Equestrian Group Camp	45 pers./45 horse	0/0	0/0
Descanso Equestrian Group Camp	<u>0/0</u>	<u>15 pers./15 horse</u>	<u>25 pers./25 horse</u>
TOTAL	45 pers./45 horse	15 pers./15 horse	25 pers./25 horse
<hr/>			
Boy Scout Org. Camp	250 pers.	0	0
City/County Org. Camp	<u>240 pers.</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	490 pers.	0	0
<hr/>			
Trail camps (4 locations)	6 sites	6 sites	15 sites
<hr/>			

Lake View Day Use Picnic	0/0	15 site/30 car	25 site/50 car
Stonewall Mine Day Use Picnic	18 site/25 car	0	0
Paso Picacho Day Use Picnic	100 site/100 car	0	0
Green Valley Day Use Picnic	<u>100 site/100 car</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	218 site/225 car	15 site/30 car	25 site/50 car

Paso Picacho Group Picnic	75 pers.	0	0
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Museum Day Use	0	100 cars	150 cars
Park HQ Day Use	30 cars	0	0
Day Use Parking @ Rte. 79	<u>250 cars</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	280 cars	100 cars	150 cars

PLAN OBJECTIVES

General management and development guidelines in this plan will remain flexible through review and continued updating. The plan will act as the primary source of information for future park management and use. Specific proposals will be further refined when specific items are funded for implementation.

The plan is made up of the following elements:

The Resource Element is a summary of the natural, cultural, esthetic, and recreational resources of the area; it sets management policies for protection and use of these resources.

The Land Use and Facilities Element describes current and proposed land uses, and describes proposed facilities.

The Interpretive Element describes proposals and programs for public information and interpretation.

The Concessions Element describes the use of concessions in the park.

The Operations Element describes operational guidelines for the park.

The General Plan as a whole serves as the draft environmental impact report. Environmental impact information is presented in the Environmental Impact Element. Further environmental assessment will be performed when specific construction or management programs are proposed, and if significant environmental impacts differing from those specified in this General Plan are found, further environmental documents will be filed.

In preparing the plan, several initial goals and objectives have been established to serve as a general guide. Goals and objectives are to:

1. Identify the unit's cultural and natural resources.
2. Identify existing and future problems, and provide solutions.
3. Determine land use, park development, and visitor activities that are compatible with the purpose of the park and the surrounding area.
4. Determine the potential environmental impacts of the land uses and visitor activities.
5. Establish policies for maintenance and operation, protection and preservation, development, and interpretation of the resources.
6. Establish a sequence of park development.
7. Provide an informational document for the public, the legislature, department personnel, and other government agencies.

RESOURCE ELEMENT

Purpose

The purpose of this Resource Element is to establish the long-range resource management goals and policies necessary to perpetuate the resource values for which the park was established. The specific programs and methods for executing management policies shall be defined in specific program plans.

This element identifies resource sensitivities and constraints, and establishes guidelines for acceptable levels of visitor use and facility development.

The Resource Element is organized into two parts. The first part includes a brief summary of park resources. More detailed information on these subjects is available in the Inventory of Features, on file with the department.

The second part of the Resource Element is the policy portion of the document, which begins with unit classification and then builds on this foundation to arrive at specific resource management policies.

Unit Description

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is located in east central San Diego County, astride the crest of the Cuyamaca Mountains in the Peninsular Ranges. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is to the east, and nearly touches the park boundary at its easternmost point. The town of Julian is less than 6 miles to the north; the community of Descanso is at the park's southern boundary.

The park can be reached from San Diego by traveling east on Interstate Highway 8 to Descanso, approximately 40 miles, then north on State Highway 79 for 7 miles. From Escondido, the park is accessible via State Highways 78 and 79, a distance of 48 miles.

State Highway 79 traverses the central portion of the park from north to south. See Map 1, State and Regional Location.

The park's size in 1985 is 24,623.82 acres; it is a roughly rectangular parcel, with several extended arms of land. Its maximum length north to south is 11.5 miles, and its width east to west is 7 miles.

The Cleveland National Forest surrounds the park on nearly all boundaries, with the exception of private parcels in Descanso Valley and along State Highway 79 at Cuyamaca Reservoir. A narrow inholding along upper Boulder Creek, owned by a youth organization, is surrounded on three sides by the park.

The Cuyamaca Rancho unit (originally 20,735 acres) was acquired for the State Park System in February 1933. It was classified as a state park on June 21, 1962, under the Statutes of 1961, adopting a classification system for State Park System units.

On April 9, 1982, two state wildernesses were established in the park by the state Park and Recreation Commission, in conformance with the Wilderness Act passed by the legislature in 1974. The wildernesses are on East Mesa, approximately 7,700 acres in size, and on West Mesa, approximately 5,500 acres in size.

On March 31, 1983, four cultural preserves were established in the park by the state Park and Recreation Commission. These cultural preserves are Ah-ha-kwe-ah-mac/Stonewall Mine (430 acres), Cuish-cuish (500 acres), Pilcha (1,530 acres), and Kumeyaay Soapstone (100 acres).

Resource Summary

This section consists of a summary of the Inventory of Features. More detailed information is on file with the department.

Natural Resources

Topography

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is located in the Cuyamaca Mountains of the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province of Southern California. Features include several broad open mesas and meadowlands surrounded by peaks. These are divided by a narrow valley (Green Valley), which runs from north to south through the central portion of the park.

Prominent geographic features include: Oakzanita Peak (elevation 5,054 feet), Japacha Peak (elevation 5,825 feet), Cuyamaca Peak (elevation 6,512 feet), Middle Peak (elevation 5,883 feet), Stonewall Peak (elevation 5,730 feet), Little Stonewall Peak (elevation 5,250 feet), Green Valley (elevation 4,200 feet), East Mesa (elevation approximately 4,800 feet), and West Mesa (elevation approximately 4,500 feet).

Elevations range from 3,400 feet at the southwest corner to 6,512 feet at the top of Cuyamaca Peak. About one-third of the park's terrain can be described as level to rolling; the remaining two-thirds is steep and rugged.

Meteorology

The Cuyamaca Mountains are in a transitional climatic area between the more continental desert climates to the east and the mild marine climates to the west. Summers are milder here than on the hot desert to the east, while winters are colder, wetter, and more severe.

Temperatures may reach the 90s F on a summer day, and drop below 0°F in mid-winter. July is the warmest month, and January the coldest.

Annual precipitation varies greatly due to topographic effects. At Cuyamaca Lake, annual precipitation is about 36 inches, but totals are likely to be considerably higher on the peaks and less over the lower elevations of the park. Most annual precipitation comes during the winter months, October to April. Much of this comes as snow above 5,000 feet in elevation. During late summer, thunderstorms commonly build up over the high peaks, bringing occasional rain.

Hydrology

The park is within parts of five major watersheds. The Upper Sweetwater River watershed is the most extensive watershed in the park, including more than one-half of the total park area (63%). The Sweetwater River flows south through the central portion of the park toward Descanso and then west, eventually draining into San Diego Bay. Major tributaries to the Sweetwater River from within the park are Stonewall Creek, Harper Creek, Cold Stream, Japacha Creek, Juaquapin Creek, Arroyo Seco, and Descanso Creek. Springs within the park portion of the Upper Sweetwater River watershed are Cold Spring, Meadow Spring, Japacha Spring, and Dyar Spring.

The Boulder Creek watershed drains Cuyamaca Reservoir and most of the northern portions of the park. Boulder Creek flows west from Cuyamaca Dam to the San Diego River. Within the park portion of the Boulder Creek watershed, Azalea Creek and Little Stonewall Creek are major tributaries, and La Puerta Spring, Azalea Spring, Conejos Spring, and Deer Spring are springs.

The King Creek watershed drains a portion of the west side of the park. King Creek begins with its headwaters on the southwest slope of Cuyamaca Peak, then flows west to Conejos Creek, which flows into El Capitan Reservoir.

The Upper Pine Valley Creek watershed is located on the southeast side of the park, where several unnamed tributaries of Pine Valley Creek exist. Granite Spring is within the park portion of this watershed.

The Cedar Creek watershed encompasses only a small area of the northernmost extension of the park.

Hydrologic characteristics for the Cuyamaca Rancho area are closely tied to seasonal and cyclic weather patterns. Precipitation, mostly in the form of rain, is the only source of surface runoff and groundwater. Most of the stream flows in the area are intermittent. The majority of the surface runoff occurs during the winter and spring, when most of the precipitation falls. During the summer season, most streams are fed by springs that bring groundwater to the surface. But when groundwater supplies diminish as the dry season progresses, spring discharges decline and often stop, and stream flows disappear.

Geology

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park lies within the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province. This province extends from the Los Angeles Basin and the Transverse Ranges in the north, southward to the tip of Baja California. The province is made up primarily of granitic rock of the Southern California batholith, older schists, and gneisses (metamorphic rocks). The batholith was emplaced in discrete pulses, which resulted in the solidification of rocks with special chemical compositions, according to the cooling time and nature of emplacement. Rock types range from dark gabbros to quartz-rich monzonites, including most granitic rock types in between. The rocks of the batholith characteristically weather into rounded boulders and flat-lying exfoliation sheets. Most of the rocks in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park were formed from 110 to possibly 240 million years ago.

All of the igneous rocks have undergone regional metamorphism, synchronous with the emplacement of the magmatic bodies. The nature of the contacts between the igneous rocks is scientifically of great interest, since "normal" relationships often seem to be reversed, with older rocks giving the appearance of having intruded younger rocks.

Resting unconformably on the Cretaceous igneous rocks are unconsolidated alluvial deposits -- colluvium, stream deposits, and localized landslide materials. This relationship -- Quarternary alluvium directly on top of Cretaceous igneous rocks -- is a notable feature of the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province. There was a period of time from about 95 million years ago to one or two million years ago that left no lithologic or fossil record.

The structure of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park was influenced by regional crustal movements along the San Jacinto and Elsinore fault zones, 18.6 miles and 4.4 miles to the northwest, respectively. No active faults occur closer than the Elsinore fault zone, although small-scale lineaments may have experienced lateral displacement.

Soils

Soils in the park have formed under physical conditions of high relief, moderate to high temperature, and rainfall. Such a variability in the physical soil-forming factors helps to explain the diversity of soils found in the park. This diversity is further promoted by a complex geologic composition. Soil types range from skeletal, coarse, sandy loams to loams with a clayey subsoil. Generally, the Cuyamaca soils have highly erodible surface soils due to their skeletal nature and coarse texture. Because of this erosion hazard, vegetation plays a crucial role in maintaining soil stability. Susceptibility to a hydrophobic condition during the dry summer season further exacerbates the inherent erodibility.

Plant Life

Seven different plant communities are found in the park. On the gentle, sloping terrains (mesas and flats), where deeper soils accumulate, is the upland grassland community, which is dominated by non-native annual grasses and forbs. In low, moist areas in the upland grassland, a completely different herbaceous community exists, the montane meadow. This community is composed primarily of native perennial herbs, particularly the conspicuous deergrass (Muhlenbergia rigens), Juncus, and Carex.

The most widespread plant community in the park is the mixed chaparral, found extensively throughout the southern and northeastern portions of the park. This community is found on thin, rocky substrate, mainly on steep slopes with little moisture-holding capacity. It is a dense-growing shrub community that is morphologically homogeneous, yet diverse in its number of species. Common species include chamise (Adenostoma fasciculatum), several manzanitas and ceanothus, scrub oak (Quercus dumosa), and western mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus betuloides).

Areas near the top of Cuyamaca Peak and on its uppermost east slopes support another type of dense shrub community, the montane chaparral. Common species in this community are chaparral whitethorn (Ceanothus leucodermis), Mexican manzanita (Arctostaphylos pungens), and scrub oak.

Along many of the park's watercourses that have ample year-round water on the surface or in the subsurface gravels is the riparian woodland community, consisting of willow, cottonwood, and understory shrubs.

The pine-oak woodland community is found on the sites of gentle terrain with moderate to deep loamy soil, such as the areas within the 4,600 to 5,200-foot elevational range on East Mesa, West Mesa, and on the gentle slopes north of Stonewall Peak. This community is most likely a transitional community between the higher and cooler mixed conifer forests and the lower and warmer southern oak woodlands. It is often an open woodland of intermixed deciduous and evergreen trees, with some understory shrubs and herbaceous plants. Black oak (Quercus kelloggii), Jeffrey pine (Pinus jeffreyi), coast live oak (Quercus agrifolia), and coulter pine (Pinus coulteri) are the principal trees in this community.

On the steeply sloping sites at higher elevations, where temperatures are cooler and precipitation is more plentiful, is the mixed conifer forest community. Significant trees of this community are white fir (Abies concolor), sugar pine (Pinus lambertiana), incense cedar (Calocedrus decurrens), and black oak.

Fire has played a significant role in development of the native flora at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Lightning fires and burning by Indians have been sources of fires historically. In more recent times, successful fire suppression has caused changes and imbalances in the natural communities.

The plant communities at the park have also undergone past disturbance from logging, grazing, settlement activities, and recreational use.

Thirteen plants listed by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) as "rare" or "rare and endangered" occur in the park. One of these, Limnanthes gracilis var. parishii (Parish's meadow foam), is listed as endangered, and another, Calochortus dunii (Dunn's mariposa), is listed as rare by the endangered plant program of the California Department of Fish and Game. The other plants are Brodiaea orcutti (Orcutt's brodiaea), Calamagrostis densa (dense reed grass), Cupressus stephensonii (Cuyamaca cypress), Delphinium hesperium ssp. cuyamacae (Cuyamaca Larkspur), Grindelia hallii (San Diego tarweed), Heuchera leptomeria var. peninsularis (San Diego County alum root), Hulsea californica (Laguna Mountain sunflower), Monardella marcantha var. hallii (Hall's monardella), Rubus glaucifolius var. ganderi (Cuyamaca raspberry), Senecio ganderi (Gander's butterweed), and Thermopsis macrophylla var. semota (velvety false lupine).

Seventeen other plants which are considered "rare" or "rare and endangered" by CNPS possibly may occur in the park because of their reported habitat and nearby location.

Animal Life

A diverse habitat within the park boundaries supports a fauna that is rich and varied. Six major biotic communities occur in the park: riparian, meadow-grassland, chaparral, mixed conifer forest, pine-oak woodland, and aquatic.

Animals known to inhabit the area include the larger mammals: the mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, and southern mule deer. Some of the birds commonly seen are the red-tailed hawk, turkey vulture, mourning dove, California quail, Stellar's jay, and several woodpecker species. The fence lizard, western skink, alligator lizard, gopher snake, and Pacific rattlesnake are some of the reptiles found in the park.

There are no known important habitats in the park for any rare, endangered, or threatened wildlife species. The American peregrine falcon, which is on the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service endangered species lists, has been observed in the area.

Although not on the state or federal lists, three bird species known to occur in the proposed wilderness portion of the park are of special interest. They are the spotted owl, golden eagle, and Cooper's hawk. Statewide breeding populations of these birds have declined significantly, mainly because of habitat destruction and human disturbance at nest sites. All three species are known to breed in the park.

Cultural Resources

Native American History

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is located within the ethnographic territory of the Kumeyaay Indians, Yuman-speaking members of the Hokan language stock. These people were formerly called the Diegueno Indians, a collective name for those related bands living near the Mission of San Diego de Alcalá. The name of Diegueno is no longer used to refer to these people, as it is not native in origin or usage. The terms Ipai and Tipai are also used to refer to these people, and these names are native in origin (meaning "people"), reflecting a northern and southern dialectic difference within the overall territory. The term Kumeyaay is also native in origin, and is a name that is preferred by many of the local Native Americans.

In prehistoric times, the Kumeyaay occupied a large territory, including most of San Diego and Imperial Counties and extending well into Baja California south of Ensenada, Mexico. The territory was bounded by the Cupeno and Luiseno groups to the north, Cahuilla to the northeast, Quechan to the east, Cocopa to the southeast, and the Paipai to the south.

The Kumeyaay were late arrivals in the region. Recent radiocarbon dates from an archeological site (SDi-5669) along the San Diego River date the earliest known Kumeyaay occupation to about A.D. 700. Exploitation of the mountain regions, including the Cuyamacas, dramatically increased around A.D. 1400, as the freshwater lake, Lake Cahuilla, became saline and evaporated.

The Kumeyaay were hunters and gatherers who followed a seasonal subsistence pattern which was focused on the availability of natural resources. They were divided into clans, each maintaining its own territory. Within the territory of each clan, there were summer and winter villages. Winters were spent at village sites located at lower elevations, from which the Kumeyaay could hunt and harvest the ripening foods of that season. Summers were spent in the mountains, where acorns and pine nuts were harvested. The archeological sites

located in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park represent a portion of the Kumeyaay summer exploitation of the region. The Cuyamaca summer village sites were returned to annually, since these have deep, dark midden deposits, indicative of a long occupation.

The material culture of the Kumeyaay included a wide variety of pottery and basketry utensils which served a wide range of uses, including food gathering, preparation, and storage. Milling equipment, used to grind acorns, pine nuts, and other vegetal foods (and occasionally non-foods), is especially abundant in Kumeyaay sites. All village sites, and most of the smaller camp sites, are located adjacent to the bedrock exposures that contain bedrock mortars and metates. Portable milling stones are also common at Kumeyaay village sites. Projectile points are usually small arrow tips made from local materials, although obsidian is common. Obsidian, as well as Lower Colorado Buffware, indicates trade with the east, and marine shell beads and ornaments indicate a western trade pattern.

Euroamerican History

In 1772, Don Pedro Fages, Spanish explorer and military commander, traveled through Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, making one of the first Euroamerican contacts with the area. Fages, pursuing deserters from San Diego, marked a route through the Cuyamaca Mountains and Carrizo Corridor to the desert. No doubt, Fages merely followed an Indian route through the area. Ten years later, Fages, returning from the Colorado River to Mission San Gabriel, retraced his route through the Cuyamaca Mountains. Having learned "that the Indians of the mountains about San Diego were in a state of semi-insurrection," Fages deliberately abandoned the existing route to San Gabriel, and followed the old Indian trail. Fages' efforts opened up and popularized a route to San Diego's back country. In the following years, more expeditions in search of mission sites and Indian converts were made to eastern San Diego County.

Although the Kumeyaay Indians managed to remain aloof and independent during this period, they grew increasingly restless with the expansion of Euroamerican settlement in the lower valleys. Finally, in 1837, a band of Indians attacked Pio Pico's Rancho Jamul, 20 miles east of San Diego, killing the majordomo and carrying off his two young daughters.

A retaliation force under the command of Alferez Macedonio was quickly formed. This military expedition, consisting of 18 regular soldiers and 30 friendly Indians, lasted four months, and covered the area from Tecate, Los Juntos, Milquatay, Jacum, Matacowat, Guatay, and Cuyamaca Valley, to Valle de Las Viejas.

The expedition met resistance when it arrived at the Indian village known as Ah-ha-kwe-ah-mac (or Cuyamaca), located within the present park boundary, a little to the north of Stonewall Peak. The "Battle of Cuyamaca" resulted in the killing of several Indians and the submission of the villagers to Mexican authority. The expedition remained at Ah-ha-kwe-ah-mac for four days before leaving. Increasingly, more intrusions by white people into the Cuyamaca Mountains occurred after 1837.

Official legal title to the area known as the Cuyamaca Mountains was granted on June 5, 1845 when Don Augustin Olvera, interested in the timber in the area, petitioned for "the tract known as Cuyamaca, 11 league more or less." On August 11, 1845, Olvera, who was married to Governor Pico's niece, obtained title to Rancho Cuyamaca. Several years later, Cesario Walker, Olvera's agent, settled near the Mitaragui rancheria on the south side of present-day Green Valley to begin lumbering operations. He managed to build an adobe, but was soon driven out by the local Indians.

Olvera, who never resided on the grant, made no further attempts to use the land himself. He did permit other ranchers to graze their cattle on the Cuyamaca meadowlands, however, and these pastures became well known from Los Angeles to Mexico in the latter part of the 19th century.

The prehistoric Indian trade route through Cuyamaca which Fages opened in 1772 later became an important mail route. In June 1857, the trail through Cuyamaca became part of James E. Birch's San Antonio and San Diego Mail Line. Birch's untimely death at the age of 29 in 1857 occurred only four days after the first mail had reached San Diego. There followed a series of different owners. The mail route was a losing proposition, moneywise, for the government. In 1858, the year of greatest activity, the post office paid out \$196,000 to the San Antonio and San Diego Mail Line for operating the route, while generating only \$601 in postage. Postmaster General Joseph Holt, in December 1860, discontinued the mail route between San Diego and Fort Yuma as being "entirely useless."

Settlers began to appear with some regularity in the Cuyamaca region during this period. In 1857, James Ruler Lassator bought 160 acres of Green Valley land, including the abandoned rancheria of Mitaragui. That same year, Lassator and his stepson, John Mulkins, built a stone house -- the first permanent dwelling in the Cuyamaca region -- on the west bank of Cold Spring Creek, near its junction with the Sweetwater River. John Mulkins continued living in the stone house after Lassator's death in the early 1860s, engaging in farming and stock raising. Today, nothing remains of the Lassator-Mulkins stone house, although the site has been noted.

In 1869, Olvera, tired of trying to both establish Rancho Cuyamaca's exact boundaries and obtain a U.S. patent to the land, sold his grant. The following year, gold was discovered on the grant and in the Julian area, a few miles north of the grant boundary. William Skidmore's claim, the "Stonewall Jackson," located near the southern edge of Cuyamaca Lake, was soon incorporated with the Hensley brothers' two claims in the same deposit, creating the Hensley Mining District. This district rapidly became known simply as the "Stonewall."

Prolonged litigation ensued when the new grant owners, John Treat, Robert Allison, Isaac Hartman, and Juan Loco, attempted to extend Rancho Cuyamaca's boundaries northward to include the Julian mines. Four years later, in 1874, the boundaries of the Cuyamaca grant were finally set in favor of the Julian miners. The original grantee, Don Augustin Olvera, received his U.S. patent for 35,501.32 acres, as finally surveyed, and immediately transferred title to the new owners.

Although the boundary dispute had been settled, conflicting ownership claims within the boundaries of the Cuyamaca grant forced a new survey in 1879, followed by the division of the grant into 14 lots among ten owners. During this period, the Kumeyaay Indians, who had managed to live relatively undisturbed in parts of the Cuyamacas as late as 1870, were displaced, and the surviving Indians were relegated to a number of small nearby reservations.

During the latter part of the 19th century, the Stonewall Mine was the center of activity. While initial work on the mine was slow, by April 1870, the mine shaft had reached a depth of 25 feet. By mid-year, a five-stamp battery had been acquired, along with other mining equipment. During the first part of 1871, the mill was crushing ore on a daily basis, averaging 12 to 20 dollars in gold per ton. For the next ten to 12 years, the Stonewall underwent foreclosures, changes in ownership, and actually remained closed for a good number of years.

By 1886, California's Lieutenant Governor, soon to be Governor, Robert W. Waterman had purchased part of the mine. Eventually, Governor Waterman acquired the complete mine, and approximately 26,000 acres of the Cuyamaca grant.

Governor Waterman's ownership of the mine marked the heyday of the Stonewall. He immediately sank the mine shafts to greater depths. The main shaft reached 230 feet; a second shaft reached 630 feet. Drifts totaled 2,700 feet on six different levels. Waterman constructed a lumber mill nearby to aid in his expansion. Most importantly, new equipment was ordered for the Stonewall. A 20-stamp steam-powered mill was added. Each stamp weighed 800 pounds, and dropped at the rate of 96 times per minute. The Stonewall employed eight men in the mill, and 65 miners under the ground.

Under Governor Waterman's direction, the Stonewall developed into one of the largest gold mines in Southern California. The mine produced about \$2 million, and at least \$909,500 was produced during the Waterman period of 1888 to 1892. Governor Waterman died in 1891, marking the end of the Stonewall. In 1892, the Sather Banking Company of San Francisco foreclosed on a mortgage on the Cuyamaca Rancho and other Waterman property held against Waterman's estate. The Waterman family eventually sold the mine and other property to satisfy the debt. In 1899, the firm of Strauss and Shin purchased the mine tailings, and leased the mine facilities for 18 months in order to extract gold by using a cyanide process. Other attempts over the years were made to re-open the mine; all were unsuccessful.

The Stonewall Mine, located far from existing towns, required a permanent labor force. This resulted in establishment of a self-sufficient community known as Cuyamaca City. No doubt it was after Governor Waterman made major capital improvements that Cuyamaca City developed. Its downfall as a community came about with the closing of the mine.

At its peak, Cuyamaca City may have had as many as 500 residents, including the families of the men working at the Stonewall. Cuyamaca City was a complete community. It contained a general store, a post office, a two-story hotel, a schoolhouse, and small laborers' cottages. The Stonewall Mine manager maintained a two-story residence, one of the best in Cuyamaca City.

Many of the single miners found residence in one of the numerous bunkhouses. This thriving community was located adjacent to the mine, spreading out on the peninsula to the north and east.

Social life centered around the schoolhouse. Church services were held here, as well as dances that were normally followed by refreshments of pies, cakes, lemonade, and coffee.

Colonel A. G. Gassen of San Diego bought the Cuyamaca Rancho and mine site in 1917. Six years later, the Gassen estate sold the land to Ralph M. Dyar, who built the two-story stone house that currently houses the Cuyamaca Indian exhibit and park headquarters, a short distance to the north of the historic Lassator property.

Dyar proceeded to dismantle most of the Stonewall Mine and Cuyamaca City structures. Many buildings were sold and relocated elsewhere, while others simply fell apart. A good portion of the mine equipment was sold for scrap metal in the 1920s. Some of the materials found their way into the two-story stone house built by Dyar. In the 1930s, a Girl Scout camp was opened on the peninsula, further affecting the remains of Cuyamaca City. Today, very little remains on the surface to indicate that the Stonewall and Cuyamaca City once existed. Artifactual debris, terraced areas, and other surface modifications are all that remain to indicate where the city once was. The four-story Stonewall Mill has been completely dismantled, only its stone foundation remaining. One clearly remaining feature from the Stonewall Mine period is the reservoir that supplied water for the boilers. During the 1930s, it underwent restoration by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

In March 1933, Ralph and Helen Dyar sold 20,735 acres at half the appraised value to the State of California. This sale created Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

During the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps played an active role in the park. Campgrounds, fire roads, erosion prevention, and fire lookout stations are a few of the many projects developed by the CCC at Cuyamaca. Park residences at Paso Picacho and Green Valley are excellent examples of CCC architecture that generally stressed mortared stone and rough-hewed beams.

Native American Historic Resources

More than 250 prehistoric sites have been recorded in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Seven different types of prehistoric sites were located during cultural surveys. These are: 1) village sites, 2) small camps, 3) temporary sites, 4) seed grinding stations, 5) cache sites, 6) quarry sites, and 7) petroglyph sites.

Village sites tend to consist of large, semi-permanent camps, probably occupied on a regular seasonal basis, and characterized by dark ashy midden deposits, scattered chipping waste, bedrock milling stations, and potsherds. These sites tend to vary in size, but all are situated on flat, relatively open areas, adjacent to springs or other water sources. Small camps, in contrast, are simply smaller than villages. They also contain a well-defined midden, chipping waste and artifacts, and are situated near a water source.

Temporary sites are characterized as areas of limited occupation. Bedrock milling features can be present, but rarely is there a developed midden. The general appearance of temporary sites suggests a very limited occupation. Seed grinding stations are characterized by bedrock milling features (from one to several), but otherwise contain little or no indication of occupation. Cache sites are identified by the presence of ceramic fragments in small caves and crevices in rocky areas, such as boulder-studded peaks and slopes. Quarry sites represent areas where local inhabitants collected materials (soapstone, for example) for the manufacture of artifacts. Petroglyph sites are normally bedrock features attributable to art, ritual, or religious purposes. They can consist of cupules (small round pits), or abstract or realistic figures pecked or painted on bedrock (painted figures are termed pictographs). More specific information may be found in the department's inventory files and the publications, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, a Cultural Resources Inventory and Management Plan for Prescribed Burning, Vol. 1, Vol. 2, Parts 1 and 2.

Euroamerican Historic Resources

A total of 27 small historic sites has been recorded in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. These include stone mortared water troughs, dump scatters, wooden bridges, mining depressions, reservoirs, rock retaining walls, and various structural debris. Larger historic resources include the Stonewall Mine; Cuyamaca City, which consisted of a boarding house, a school, a hotel, a cemetery, and residences; the Ralph Dyar House (now park headquarters); several structures constructed of native sandstone by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s and now used as ranger residences; and the Lassator-Mulkins homesite in Green Valley. Further information is located in the inventory files and publications noted above.

Esthetic Resources

The Cuyamaca Mountains and Cuyamaca Rancho State Park have outstanding scenic quality. Factors contributing to this quality include the park's diversity of topography and vegetation, open vistas over meadows surrounded by forests, the presence of water in the landscape, and conspicuous wildlife populations.

On clear days, one can see from the higher peaks west to the Pacific Ocean, east to the Salton Sea, and occasionally to the Kofa Mountains of Arizona and to peaks far into Mexico.

Recreation Resources

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park's relatively large size offers excellent opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation, such as hiking, backpacking, primitive camping, and horseback riding. The diverse natural environment provides opportunities for nature study and photography. The park's rich cultural heritage of Native American, Spanish, and Euroamerican exploration and settlement also provides opportunities for educational study and interpretation.

Resource Policy Formation

Classification

The unit was classified as a state park by the state Park and Recreation Commission on June 21, 1962. The Public Resources Code, Section 5019.53, defines a state park as follows:

"State parks consist of relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, oftentimes also containing significant historical, archeological, ecological, geological, or other such values. The purpose of state parks shall be to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values, indigenous aquatic and terrestrial fauna and flora, and the most significant examples of the...ecological regions of California...."

"Each state park shall be managed as a composite whole in order to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes to the extent compatible with the primary purpose for which the park was established.

"Improvements undertaken within state parks shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values for present and future generations. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for such recreational activities including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, and horseback riding, so long as such improvements involve no major modification of lands, forests, or waters. Improvements which do not directly enhance the public's enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological values of the resource, which are attractions in themselves, or which are otherwise available to the public within a reasonable distance outside the park, shall not be undertaken within state parks."

Declaration of Purpose

The Declaration of Purpose defines the purpose of the unit and the broadest goals of resource management:

The purpose of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is to perpetuate for the enjoyment, inspiration, and enlightenment of the people: the natural scenic landscape and wilderness values of the Cuyamaca and western Laguna Mountains, the naturally functioning ecosystems therein, and the history and significant cultural features of early human occupation, settlement, and activity.

The department shall prescribe and execute a program of resource management, based on current and continuing scientific research, which is designed to perpetuate the park's declared values. The department shall provide recreational facilities that make available these values in a manner that is consistent with their perpetuation. Research, management planning, and execution shall take into account the full enjoyment of the park by visitors for whom the park is intended.

This Declaration of Purpose replaces the Declaration of Purpose approved by the then-state Park and Recreation Commission on April 22, 1966.

Zone of Primary Interest

The zone of primary interest is a declaration of the department's concern for any environmental changes outside the park that could seriously jeopardize or degrade park values.

The zone includes all land adjacent to the park boundaries, Cuyamaca Lake and the entirety of land south of Road S-1 in the vicinity of the park, the eastern border lands known as the Lucky Five Ranch, the Campfire organization lands along Boulder Creek, the Milk Ranch, and all land south of the park boundary to the Samagatuma and Descanso Valleys.

In addition, the department is concerned about any lands, regardless of their distance from the park, whose development or use could adversely affect park resources or values.

Resource Management Policies

The classification and Declaration of Purpose establish the primary purpose and broadest goals for management of the park's resources. The specific policies which follow direct the department in how best to achieve these goals.

These unit-specific policies supplement the statutes and directives found in the Public Resources Code, the California Administrative Code, and the department's Resource Management Directives.

Hydrologic Resources

Springs and watercourses are primary park features which have natural, esthetic, and recreational values. Surface water is particularly critical to wildlife during dry summer months.

Riparian areas are fragile, and even limited soil disturbance or loss of vegetation will result in increased sedimentation and degradation of aquatic environments.

Policy:

It shall be the goal of the department to secure the water rights for all water in the park.

The department shall work toward the objective of using only deep aquifers as a source of water for park facilities. Natural watercourses shall not be further impounded or diverted.

Dyar Spring shall be restored as a natural undiverted spring, with opportunities for on-site use developed only following location of an alternative source of water. The preferred location for a new source of water is close to the area of use, near park headquarters in Green Valley.

The department shall manage use patterns to protect the quality, quantity, and biological integrity of water features and their relationship with other park values.

Surface water shall be protected from pollution or unnatural loads of sedimentation. Periodic increases in sedimentation resulting from natural events, such as floods or low-intensity fires, shall be considered natural, unless such events are coupled with soil disturbance that leads to unnatural levels of sedimentation.

Geologic Resources

Public Safety

The Stonewall Mine was extensively excavated during the search for gold. The mine entrance has since been filled with debris, and the status of the tunnel network is unknown. If the mine mouth is cleaned out in support of restoration of the mine area, a hazardous condition could be created. Also, at least one sinkhole has recently started to develop; this could indicate a collapsing shaft, as its location is above what is shown as a 600-foot "ventillator shaft" on a historic drawing of the mine.

Policy:

If the Stonewall mine entrance is altered or if the underground shafts become exposed, measures shall be taken to protect the public.

In the steep, upland areas of the park, the bedrock weathers out in large boulders. Large blocks are often perched on steep peaks, and are subject to rapid failure, especially if a major seismic event were to occur nearby.

Policy:

Areas of potential block falls shall be identified and monitored. Records of significant block falls shall be reported to the department's geologist and recorded and plotted on the geologic map, as part of the Inventory of Features.

Soil Resources

The surface texture of the soils at Cuyamaca is extremely susceptible to disturbance and dislocation. Particularly sensitive areas are in meadows and along major watercourses, due to their siltaceous texture of recent lacustrine deposition. Destructive soil erosion is occurring in several locations in the park, particularly along poorly sited or designed fire roads, and around heavily used facilities and trails.

Policy:

Destructive or unnatural erosion shall be controlled and prevented by means that are in harmony with the purpose of the park.

Specific project plans shall be developed and executed to correct areas of excessive or destructive erosion. All park roads shall be evaluated as to their necessity, location, and design, and specific problems shall be corrected.

Mechanical disturbance of the soil or vegetation modification that does likewise shall be minimized.

Due to the heterogeneous nature of the soils in the park, a site-specific soil survey shall be made before the siting and development of new facilities.

Plant Life Resources

General Vegetation Management

The plant communities at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park have undergone past disturbance from logging, grazing, suppression of natural fires, wildfires, settlement activities, and recreational use. The results of such impacts are alterations in the natural plant communities, tending progressively toward the following conditions:

- loss of natural age class structure;
- unnatural changes in spatial relations and community structure;
- decline in the health and vigor of forest and native grassland communities;
- alteration of the reproductive functions in many native species;
- alteration of the extent and distribution of many species;
- invasion of exotics, and deleterious competition with native species.

Policy:

The primary objective of vegetation management shall be to manage toward a natural condition, with a minimum of disruption of natural processes. The secondary objective shall be to restore and perpetuate the native plant communities that prevailed in the area before Euroamerican influences.

Grazing

The grazing of livestock at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is an artificial disruption of the park's management objectives of promoting natural processes and restoring natural ecosystems.

Livestock grazing provides no benefits to the park which cannot be accomplished by less deleterious means. Livestock grazing heavily affects riparian habitats, pollutes surface waters, reverses the restoration of native grasses and the reduction in exotic grasses and forbs, detracts from park scenery with the necessary installation of interior fences, and detracts from the overall recreational experiences in areas where these animals congregate.

Policy:

The state Park and Recreation Commission terminated grazing in the park in 1956. Livestock grazing shall continue to be prohibited in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Fire Use

Naturally occurring low-intensity fires were part of the natural ecological processes on the lands that now comprise Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

These fires were most often started by lightning in late summer and early fall. Native American populations used fire for clearing brush and grasslands, and as a plant management tool to promote the reproduction and growth of native food sources.

Disruption of these fire processes by successful fire suppression for more than 50 years has resulted in ecological imbalances, high wildfire hazard from accumulated fuels, and the occurrence of two devastating wildfires. Fire needs to be reintroduced to maintain and restore ecosystems, and to reduce the potential for holocaustic wildfires.

Policy:

To the maximum extent possible, fire shall be restored to its natural role. A prescribed fire management plan that details an ongoing program of fire use shall be maintained.

Particular care shall be taken to minimize deleterious effects on the park's natural, cultural, and scenic resources. Artificial modifications and processes shall be minimized.

This program of fire use shall not preclude in any way the necessity for wildfire prevention and suppression.

Fire Prevention and Suppression

Policy:

A wildfire protection plan which addresses wildfire prevention and suppression shall be maintained, in conjunction with the responsible wildfire control agencies.

The plan shall include identification of the necessary equipment and facilities for fighting wildfires and for protection of the public during such an event, the locations and maintenance of fuel and firebreaks, fire access roads, visitor evacuation and safety, and fire suppression methods and strategies.

This plan shall be periodically reviewed and updated.

Fire suppression methods used in the park shall be those that cause the least resource damage commensurate with effective control.

Exotic Plants

The grasslands of the park have been profoundly altered in species composition, with native perennials being replaced by annuals of exotic origin. Poplar trees near the park boundary south of Cuyamaca Lake are unnatural.

Policy:

On lands other than those supporting facilities or in historic areas like Cuyamaca City, exotic plant species shall be controlled to the extent possible. The highest priority for control efforts shall be given to those species that can naturalize (spread).

Landscaping around public facilities shall include species which are native to the area. Landscaping around residences shall not include species that are capable of naturalizing.

Rare and Endangered Plants

Rare plants have been reported from locations throughout Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. The actual population distributions of each of the 13 species found in the park are unknown.

With the exception of the Cuyamaca cypress, little is known about the management requirements of each rare or endangered species.

The Cuyamaca cypress is adapted to chaparral fires on a frequency greater than 30 years. The populations of this species in the park were burned in the Conejos and Boulder fires in 1950 and 1970. The Conejos fire was beneficial, but the Boulder fire resulted in a severe drop in the population. Scientific research has resulted in management recommendations that the cypress be protected from fire until after the year 2000.

Policy:

All rare and endangered plants in the park shall be protected and managed for their perpetuation. Information on the distribution of each species shall be obtained and made available to park staff.

A plan shall be prepared for management and protection of the Cuyamaca cypress.

Each rare and endangered species in the park shall be studied for the purpose of developing management criteria. Management plans shall be prepared for those species requiring special management and protection.

Meadows

The meadows at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park are particularly fragile. Disturbances to them from concentrated pedestrian and equestrian traffic, or facilities that disturb the soil mantle, will likely alter the shallow subsurface water conditions which perpetuate meadow vegetation. Following disturbance, a progression of vegetation change may result, leading to the encroachment of woody vegetation on the meadows, and a reduction in size.

Pedestrian and equestrian traffic in Stonewall Meadow near the horse camps, and in Green Valley near the school camp, has led to heavy impacts on nearby meadows.

Policy:

Meadowlands, which are an important ecological and scenic resource in the park, shall be protected to the maximum extent possible from impairment caused by human use.

Any new visitor facilities shall be located away from meadow environments. Existing facilities, particularly trails, which are causing serious damage to meadows shall be relocated to more suitable locations when possible. A plan for meadow rehabilitation shall be prepared and executed.

Facilities, particularly roads and utility lines, which necessitate disturbance of the soil mantle shall be excluded from meadows. Underground utility lines shall be placed next to roads.

Fire roads and firebreaks shall not be located in meadows.

Animal Life Resources

General Wildlife Management

The protection and perpetuation of natural wildlife populations is a primary objective in management of the park.

Policy:

The department shall restore altered wildlife habitats as nearly as possible to the conditions they would be in today had natural ecological processes not been disturbed. Whether or not restoration of natural conditions is possible, it shall be the policy of the department to avoid significant imbalances in the natural wildlife populations caused by human influences. If it is necessary to regulate the populations by something other than natural means, the methods used shall be based on sound principles of wildlife management and shall avoid disturbance of other natural and cultural values of the park.

Protection of Special Interest Wildlife Species

Three bird species known to breed in the park are of special interest. They are the spotted owl, golden eagle, and Cooper's hawk. They are of special interest because statewide breeding populations of these birds have declined significantly, mainly because of habitat destruction and human disturbance at nest sites.

Policy:

The department shall protect special interest wildlife species and their habitats. Development and human disturbance shall be kept to a minimum in areas where known nesting habitats of these species exist.

Habitat Protection -- Water

During the dry season of the year, areas where surface water occurs are important to the maintenance of wildlife.

Policy:

Available free-flowing water shall not be appropriated for other uses during the dry season, either from seeps, springs, creeks, or shallow wells, which would diminish the supply of these surface waters to such a degree that wildlife would be adversely affected.

No additional water shall be diverted for recreational or other purposes before the effect on wildlife is assessed and is determined to be insignificant.

Springs may be altered to provide a more reliable and available source of water for wildlife.

Cultural Resources

Management of the cultural resources at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is governed by state statutes and departmental policies and directives. The following portions of the Public Resources Code pertain to management of cultural resources: Chapter 1, Section 5019.74 (when cultural preserves are designated); Chapter 1.7, Section 5097.5; and Chapter 1.75, Section 5097.9. Resource management directives pertaining to cultural resources include: 10, 24, 25, 32, 50, 51, 52, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 69, 70, 71, 72, 75, and 76.

Native American Resources

Numerous Native American sites are located near roads (Highway 79, for example), within or close to developed campsites, and along hiking and riding trails. Some are directly affected by fire roads. The following sites are examples: 8827, 8845, Site A, 894, 895, 925, 833, 834, 864, 828, 1019, 917, 9037, 916, isolate at Fern Spring, 8837, 8823, 8840, 8825, 8839, 907, 868, 8831, 9039, 9040, 936, 9085H, 9084H, 1026, 1024, 1020, 1028, 878, 882, 867, 865, 845, 849, 1070, 879, 940, and 1071.

Policy:

The department shall locate/relocate roads, trails, campsites, and other facilities away from Native American sites, and shall install buffers around the sites where necessary. Roads which affect cultural sites shall be maintained by hand rather than power equipment at these sites. Department employees responsible for construction or maintenance of roads and other facilities shall be responsible for any damage to archeological resources resulting from such activity. The employee shall know if the area in which work is being done has been surveyed for archeological resources, and if so, where these resources are located. If the area has not been surveyed, a department archeologist shall be consulted.

All of the known prehistoric sites in the park have been evaluated as to their individual needs for protection from prescription burning. Specific management policies for each site are given in the Department's report, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Cultural Resources Inventory and Management Plan for Prescribed Burning, Vol. 2, Part 1. These shall be consulted and followed for burn restrictions before any burning.

Policy:

When burning is planned in areas that have not been surveyed for prehistoric resources, a department archeologist shall be consulted. If the potential for damage to resources exists, an archeological survey shall be made and protective measures taken as needed, including the placing of hand lines around sites that are not to be burned.

The City-County school camp and the Boy Scout camp may have inadvertently contributed in the past to the damage of archeological resources in the park. The Boy Scout camp is located very near a prehistoric resource that has suffered damage from camp activities. The location of this and other sites were relatively unknown until very recently, and resource management procedures have changed dramatically in recent years. The City-County school camp used to conduct hikes to significant cultural sites, where surface collecting took place. Department management was aware of these activities in previous years, but, for various reasons, did not take action to stop them from occurring.

Policy:

The department shall evaluate and prepare a report on the effects the City-County school camp and the Boy Scout camp have had on the cultural resources of the park, and make recommendations by which these resources may be protected, including such measures as special hiking trails and restricted zones. The report shall determine whether any current damage is occurring, and shall make recommendations to mitigate or obviate such, if any, damage.

A number of prehistoric sites were recorded at the following springs: Granite Spring, Cold Spring, the spring at Primitive Camp, Japacha Spring, Fern Flat Spring, Azalea Spring, and La Puerta Spring. Any spring improvements or maintenance could damage the sites.

Policy:

Any spring improvements shall be reviewed by a department archeologist for potential damage to archeological sites. Mitigation measures shall be accomplished before improvements.

Site 913, known as Arrowmakers Ridge, is archeologically significant, and is in a cultural preserve.

Policy:

The department shall restrict visitation to site 913 by relocating trails, or by other suitable means.

Site 8862 consists of a petroglyph site, containing 13 abstract elements on two panels situated on a low, flat, granitic exposure. This site appears to be quite old, and is badly exfoliating.

Policy:

Visitation to site 8862 shall be restricted by routing trails out of the area, and the site shall be protected by ranger patrol. The department shall prepare a resource management plan for stabilization of the site.

Prehistoric sites 9039 and 9040 consist of soapstone boulders and outcrops. Both sites show evidence of Native American quarrying. Traditionally, soapstone was a trade commodity used in the manufacture of certain kinds of tools and ornaments. Soapstone also played an important role in Kumeyaay initiation ceremonies. Site 9040, in particular, contains a bedrock mortar and numerous cupules that may have been used for Native American initiation ceremonies. These sites are included in the Kumeyaay Soapstone Cultural Preserve, established in 1983. Both sites are close to fire roads.

Policy:

Due to the fragility of the cultural values associated with both sites, no collection of soapstone from sites 9039 and 9040 shall be allowed. Maintenance of the fire road shall conform with the policy statement on fire roads.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park has had a long history of both professional and non-professional archeological investigations. Beginning in the 1930s, the San Diego Museum of Man conducted numerous archeological excavations at the park. Through the years, various universities have also conducted surveys and excavations at the park. Before the land became a state park, many private individuals collected artifacts in the Cuyamaca region. The result has been that collections of artifacts from Cuyamaca Rancho State Park have been scattered throughout Southern California, in public and private collections.

Policy:

The department shall prepare an inventory and management plan of the known artifact collections from Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. The document should describe the type of artifact, where it was excavated if possible,

and the physical location of the collections. The department shall seek the return of significant artifact collections for use in research and interpretive programs at the park.

Euroamerican Resources

Only a small portion of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (approximately 14 percent of 9,965 hectares or 24,000 acres) has been surveyed for Euroamerican resources. Euroamerican resources so far located tend to be susceptible to fire damage (they consist of wood fabrics or mortar).

Policy:

A department historian and/or archeologist shall survey any area before burning, and offer protective measures, as needed.

During the 1930s, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park served as a center for Civilian Conservation Corps activities. While much of the CCC work consisted of improving the natural setting of Cuyamaca (stream improvement, firebreaks), some structures were built. Residences at Paso Picacho (CDF fire station and park ranger residence) and Green Valley are examples of CCC architecture that generally stressed mortared stone and rough-hewed beams. These structures are nearing the 50-year preservation mark, and visibly reflect the CCC work in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. The CCC also developed many of the early campground facilities that include Diablo stoves and picnic tables.

Policy:

The department recognizes the significance of the CCC structures, and will strive to maintain proper adaptive uses (for example, ranger residences). The department shall not modify the exterior appearances by any means. Needed exterior maintenance will use compatible materials, and will not alter the original architectural style. The department shall maintain the Diablo stoves and other camp facilities constructed by the CCC.

In 1923, Ralph Dyar, former owner of Cuyamaca Rancho, started construction of a two-story stone house. This stone house was constructed from native materials, along with materials from the Stonewall Mine (beams and steel reinforcement). Currently, the Dyar House is used by the Department of Parks and Recreation as an Indian museum exhibit room, and for park offices.

Policy:

The department shall maintain the historically significant Dyar stone house and garage. The department shall not modify the exterior appearance, and shall use compatible materials in any exterior maintenance.

During the early part of this century, the U.S. Forest Service constructed a lookout station atop Cuyamaca Peak. This early lookout station was replaced by a structure constructed by CCC crews in the 1930s. In 1952, the existing lookout station was constructed by the Forest Service; although this structure has not been used for a number of years, it appears to be in stable condition.

Policy:

Foundation ruins from early lookout stations, and the Forest Service badge "rock art," carved in stone, that lists the name of the lookout and year he served, are historically significant, and shall be protected.

Twenty-seven Euroamerican historic sites have been recorded, including cabin sites, bridges, and reservoirs. These sites are located in areas that will be included in the department's prescribed burn program. Each of these historic resources has varying resistance to fire. Historic sites with wooden components would have little resistance to fire, while coarse, mortared stone reservoirs also require certain precautions.

Policy:

Each of the 27 Euroamerican historic sites has been evaluated as to its individual needs for protection from fire in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, a Cultural Resources Inventory and Management Plan for Prescribed Burning, Vol. 2; this volume shall be followed for burn restrictions and management policies before any prescribed burning is allowed.

The Stonewall Mine and Cuyamaca City are historically significant, and are in a cultural preserve.

Policy:

Intrusions on this zone (a park residence, maintenance yard, and shop building) shall be removed as the opportunity arises. A strong emphasis will be made on interpreting the Stonewall Mine and Cuyamaca City for park visitors.

The Lassator-Mulkins homesite represents the first permanent dwelling (1856) in Green Valley, and contains important subsurface archeological resources.

Policy:

The department shall not disturb the subsurface in the area of the Lassator-Mulkins homesite in Green Valley until archeological testing is conducted.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is unique in its range and variety of cultural resources. Its flow of history includes the breadth of California's historic experience, from the Native American, Spanish, and Mexican to Anglo-American periods. Human activities at Cuyamaca range from large village sites, a Mexican land grant, ranching, farming, and lumbering to one of the largest gold mines in Southern California. The Department of Parks and Recreation recognizes the importance of archeological and historical research in protection and interpretation of cultural resources at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Policy:

The department shall develop a program of ongoing archeological and historical research for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Archeological and historical societies, universities, and any interested individuals shall be encouraged to participate in the program, and to be actively involved in better understanding the complex history at the unit.

Esthetic Resources

The quality of scenery at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is derived from its naturalness, topographic and vegetative diversity, and the presence of abundant wildlife.

Numerous man-made features that have encroached on the natural landscape are either unnecessary or poorly located. Overhead powerlines are the single most pervasive detractors from the natural scene, particularly in meadows and chaparral, where vegetation is low-growing.

Park residences that are located singly and not in facility areas (campgrounds, headquarters, or Descanso) detract from the park's natural character by giving the impression of a rural residential area.

The enjoyment of scenic vistas has been obscured by vegetative growth at some traditional vantage points in the park. This applies to roads and popular trails.

Policy:

It is the objective of the department to provide a setting in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park that, inasmuch as possible, represents natural conditions, with human influence and features minimized.

Management of the park shall be toward reduction of man-made intrusions on the natural scene. Facilities shall be concentrated in specific use areas, and not scattered throughout the park.

Although political, legal, or economic realities may prevent immediate removal of the many intrusions on the park's scenery, it is the ultimate goal of the department to eliminate any man-made features from the park that are irrelevant to the park's purpose, are unnecessary, or are poorly located.

A goal of the department shall be to have all overhead utility lines serving park facilities placed underground. Because of the impact of underground trenching on park resources, trenches shall be located as close to existing roads as possible, and in locations where the least environmental damage will result.

It is desirable that all overhead utility lines not serving necessary park facilities be rerouted around the park.

The summit area on Cuyamaca Peak shall be restored to a natural appearance. All non-historical structures and communications equipment shall be removed.

All prominent peaks in the park, including Oakzanita, Stonewall, Little Stonewall, Japacha, and Middle Peak, shall be maintained in a natural appearance, free of communications equipment or other conspicuous man-made features.

It is ultimately desirable that the ranger residence, located near the access road to Los Caballos camp from State Highway 79 (Park Residence #9), be removed, and the area restored to a natural appearance.

It is ultimately desirable that the Minshall residence, located 1/4 mile north of the Los Vaqueros camp, be removed, and the area restored to a natural appearance. This shall occur only if the residence is found to be historically insignificant.

All structures at the Stonewall Mine site that are not historic shall be removed, except for interpretive structures.

A plan shall be prepared that identifies areas to be subject to vista improvement and that identifies the objectives, standards, and methods to be used for enhancing the scenic enjoyment of the landscape.

The California Department of Forestry conservation camp known as La Cima, located within park boundaries, is conspicuous from park trails. The access road creates a very visible scar from the upper meadows in Green Valley, and from vista points on Stonewall and Cuyamaca Peaks. Powerlines to it detract from the natural scenery.

Policy:

It is ultimately desirable that the La Cima conservation camp be removed from the park, and the area be restored to a natural state.

State Highway 79 has more detrimental potential to the esthetic resources and ambiance of the park than any other man-made feature.

Non-park and high-speed vehicle traffic currently detracts from a relaxed recreational atmosphere. Any upgrading for faster-moving or higher-volume traffic, such as road straightening or widening, would amplify the highway's impact.

Policy:

It is ultimately desirable that State Highway 79 become a park-controlled road, with kiosks at park entrances and the speed limit reduced. Realization of this goal undoubtedly depends on an alternative highway route around the park. The department supports such a concept.

The department is fundamentally opposed to any alteration of State Highway 79 with the objective of decreasing travel time through the park, or of increasing the volume of non-park use.

Recreation Resources

Two wilderness areas have been established in the park, on East and West Mesas. Wilderness status denotes a special quality of the resources in both a recreational and an ecological sense. A management plan for protection of these special qualities is required by law.

Traditional recreational activities appropriate in a wilderness setting include hiking, horseback riding, nature and culture study, primitive camping, and photography. Public road access through the central portion of the park provides opportunities for appropriate roadside activities, including sightseeing, picnicking, and camping.

The horse camps in the Stonewall Meadow area are in keeping with park purposes, but some trails surrounding them are affecting sensitive meadow environments. See the policy on meadows.

The two youth camps have, in the past, created problems of resource degradation. In addition, some of the facilities associated with the camps are located in areas where resource damage can easily occur.

Policy:

It shall be the objective of the department to mitigate and eliminate, if necessary, any recreational activities and facilities from the park which do not directly enhance the enjoyment of the park's primary resource values.

The department encourages park use by youth groups for nature study and outdoor recreation. Recognizing the value of outdoor education and the goals and purposes of these two long-term lessees, it is the intention of the department to renew the leases of the City-County school camp and the Boy Scout camp. The department shall prepare a report which evaluates the activities and facilities of both youth camps, and which makes recommendations for keeping those facilities and activities in line with departmental objectives.

Wilderness values in the designated wilderness areas shall be protected and managed in accordance with the requirements of the law and the guidelines established by the Resources Agency.

A wilderness management plan shall be prepared for the wilderness areas in the park. The plan shall provide for preservation of the values for which the areas have been so classified, and shall determine visitor carrying capacity, regulation of visitor use, and measures for monitoring visitor use impacts.

Toward the enhancement of the wilderness on East Mesa, it shall be the goal of the department to remove the Dyar Spring Road corridor, and convert it to wilderness status.

Public requests are made to hold competitive equestrian or distance running events and other special events each year that are not directly related to enjoyment of the prime resource values of the park. These events can and often do introduce people to the natural wonders of the park, and many stay on

to enjoy them. Such events (and some can be attractions in and of themselves, and unrelated to the park's prime resource values), however, create certain impacts. The intent of management is to minimize the impact of these events on the resources, or on the experience of other park visitors.

Policy:

Competitive equestrian and distance running events or other special events that are not directly related to enjoyment of the prime resource values of the park, as stated in the Declaration of Purpose, shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Factors which shall be considered in permitting such events are the environmental conditions, the location and timing of the events, and their proximity to sensitive biological, cultural, or esthetic resources. Additional consideration shall be given to areas classified as state wilderness.

Applications for competitive events shall be made to the park office before the calendar year in which they are planned. The number of permitted events shall be limited based on the relative merits of each, and on their appropriateness to the park's primary purpose.

District staff shall monitor special events which have potential for impact on resources or visitor experiences, in order to consider the advisability of similar events in future years.

Allowable Use Intensity

California state law (Section 5019.5, Public Resources Code) requires that a land carrying capacity survey be made before any park or recreational area development plan is prepared. Allowable use intensity is a refinement of the land carrying capacity concept, and is prepared as part of the Resource Element of the General Plan, in fulfillment of the above code section.

Allowable use intensity is just one of several factors considered in developing the Land Use Element of the General Plan. Other factors that may also be considered in determining land use for any unit of the State Park System are classification and purpose, recreation needs, design considerations, and social carrying capacity, or the desired quality of the recreation experience.

Allowable use intensity determinations provide guidelines for development and use in the character and value of the scenic, natural, and cultural resources. Determinations are based on analysis and integration of resource management and protection objectives, resource constraints, and resource sensitivities information.

Resource management objectives are defined by the Public Resources Code and other law, unit classifications and subclassifications, declarations of purpose, and specific declarations of resource management policy, as presented in this Resource Element.

Resource constraints are factors which would make visitor use or facility development unsafe, economically impractical, or undesirable. They are determined by evaluating such factors as the erodibility and compaction potential of soils, geologic hazards, slope stability and relief, hydrologic conditions, the potential for pollution of surface waters, and flooding.

Sensitivities are conditions, locations, or values of resources that warrant restriction of use or development to protect resources. Sensitivities are evaluated by considering such factors as the ability of the ecosystem to withstand human impact (ecological sensitivity), not only in the short term but also over a more extended time span; the fragility and significance of archeological and historical resources; vegetation characteristics such as durability, fragility, and regeneration rates; and wildlife considerations such as tolerance to human activity, population levels, and stability. Sensitivities may also include scenic resources; rare, threatened, or endangered plants, animals, and habitats; unique or scientifically important botanic features; and other resources of regional or statewide significance.

Based on the preceding factors, allowable use intensity for lands in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park was determined as shown in the Allowable Use Intensity Map, Map 2. In addition, subclassifications of state wilderness and cultural preserve have special requirements of use which are set forth in the Public Resources Code or in management plans for those areas. Map 3 shows lands which are classified as state wilderness. Map 4 shows four areas classified as cultural preserves.

The following are general descriptions of the allowable use intensity classes which have been mapped:

Category 1 - Includes areas of sensitive biological or cultural resources which could be significantly affected by trails or concentrated visitor use. Areas mapped include wet meadows, sensitive rare and endangered plant populations, and significant archeological resource concentrations.

Category 1 lands are open for public access by foot; however, no formal trails shall be constructed into or through these areas.

Category 2 - Includes primitive, scenic landscape which offers outstanding opportunities for primitive forms of recreation, such as hiking, horseback riding, and primitive camping. Areas mapped include land classified as state wilderness which has not been included in Category 1. Motorized management access is not allowed except in emergency situations.

Category 3 - Includes primitive landscape similar in character to wilderness lands, but on which management vehicle access is desirable. These lands add to the wildland character of the park, and provide insulation and habitat protection for certain wildlife species less tolerant to human interactions.

Category 3 areas also include sensitive biological, cultural, or esthetic resource areas or lands of steep topography and soil instability that severely limit the potential for public vehicle access or site development.

Category 4 - Includes areas of gentle topography, relatively stable soils, and good vehicle access that are appropriate for low- to moderate-intensity site development. Lands in Category 4 are limited in size by topography, soil stability, and sensitive biological, cultural, or esthetic resources.

Lands that are mapped in Category 4 include areas of established, low- to moderate-intensity recreational use, disturbed sites with good access, and existing or potential public vehicle access corridors. Most sites are on forested land, which provides screening from prime scenic resource areas.

Category 5 - Includes areas suitable for moderate- to high-intensity site development, with good access. Lands mapped in this category include existing moderate- to high-intensity use sites, and some contiguous lands that have similar characteristics, and which are not limited by topography, soils, or sensitive biological, cultural, or esthetic resources.

LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT

Recreation Needs

The Regional Perspective

The San Diego Metropolitan Area is less than an hour's drive from Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. All of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties, with a population of between 10 and 15 million people, are within a three-hour drive of the park.

The needs of this surrounding population for a wide variety of recreation experiences, open space, and esthetics are what make wise land-use decisions important at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. The extremely fast-growing nearby population, combined with relatively high average education and income levels and increased leisure time, will continue to cause increased demands on Cuyamaca Rancho State Park to provide more recreation open space and a wider diversity of opportunities for use of State Park System lands in urban Southern California.

Recreation Trends

There is a trend toward purchase and use of recreation-oriented motor vehicles (Jeeps, dune buggies, motorcycles, pickups, campers and trailers, motorhomes, and boats). Such vehicles have encouraged penetration into formerly remote areas, and have generated some forms of recreation which tend to damage the resources of many recreation areas. However, the fact that such recreation-oriented vehicles may conflict with recreation resources has been noted, and new management techniques are evolving. For example: the trend is away from using key recreation resource areas to accommodate motor vehicles, and toward providing roadless areas, walk-in campgrounds, and other means of keeping motor vehicles and necessary parking facilities and roads from consuming more valuable recreational open space resources.

Committing recreation resources (sometimes irreversibly) to accommodation of motor vehicle-oriented recreation is not an appropriate response. As the importance of close-to-home open space increases, it is especially important that major portions of key open space not become unalterably committed to this use.

Plans for future county parks suggest recognition of the importance of minimally developed close-to-home recreation areas. Of the seven proposed county regional parks in the area of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, three recognize the need for retaining fragile and/or unique ecosystems.

Recreation Facilities Surrounding Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Recreation suppliers surrounding the park include: the Laguna Mountain area of the United States Forest Service (USFS); the Lake Cuyamaca Recreation and Park District; the William Heise County Park development to the north; and the private recreation developments "Great American Adventure" at the park's north entrance and "Thousand Trails" at the park's south entrance. The nearby small towns of Julian, Descanso, Pine Valley, and Alpine all contribute overnight lodging, restaurants, and other tourist facilities.

The Laguna Mountain area of the USFS now provides 343 campsites, 57 picnic sites, two resorts, two organization camps, and cabins/recreation residences. The USFS Recreation Resource Plan proposes additional recreation facilities, including horse/people camping for families and groups.

The Lake Cuyamaca Recreation and Park District is located at the park's north entrance. The district's water-oriented recreation program includes fishing for trout and warm-water sport species, duck hunting, picnicking, boating, camping, and hiking. First opened in 1968, the district's attendance has grown regularly. There are 26 recreational vehicle campsites, 60 day-use parking spaces for RVs or vehicles with boat trailers, a boat launching ramp, boat rentals, and a restaurant and store.

The William Heise County Park provides a total of 102 campsites, including a caravan camping area (21 spaces), 38 sites for recreational vehicles, and 43 sites that accommodate tents only. There are also two primitive group camps for 30 people each, a picnic area, a sanitary disposal station, and hiking and riding trails.

The privately owned and managed "Great American Adventure" resort, located at the park's north boundary, is sometimes called Cuyamaca Park. It provides 125 recreational vehicle sites, with plans for future expansion to 750 sites. This park provides a swimming pool, a fish pond, a hiking/nature trail, playgrounds, shuffleboard, horse corrals, and hot tubs.

The privately owned and managed "Thousand Trails," located at the park's south entrance, provides 137 recreational vehicle sites, as well as a swimming pool, volleyball, miniature golf, and shuffleboard.

The variety and amount of recreation suppliers surrounding Cuyamaca Rancho State Park complement the complex missions of the State Park System -- to preserve open space beauty and cultural/natural resources, while, at the same time, providing public access to these resources.

Regional Needs

The most consistent and repeated expression of general need for close-to-home recreation opportunities involves the desire for open and undeveloped lands and woods for unstructured recreation activity. The next most frequently expressed demand is the desire for regional parks with undeveloped multiple-use areas. While the demand for desert/mountain overnight recreation facilities is increasing, the need for overnight recreation is most acute in the coastal area.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is characterized by scenic resources not commonly available to Southern California urban populations. The site is at a high elevation, mostly forested by a pine/oak association, with topography affording a multitude of scenic overlooks. Central to these scenic attributes is the complex of meadows. Varied plant and animal life, and relatively cool summer temperatures, contribute additional dimensions to the recreational resources of the park. The seasonal dynamism of the area is a feature not generally associated with Southern California, especially so close to the coast. Fall colors, occasional substantial snowfall, and a fine display of spring flowers provide a focus for various recreational experiences.

The unique nature of the area, however, is not merely the sum of the attractive features and their closeness to urban populations. The entire park area is seemingly removed from the constructs of humanity. Many people recognize and highly value this quiet solitude, finding in the meadows a setting for introspection and nature appreciation.

The Park Perspective

Current facilities at the state park include 182 family campsites, group camps for up to 160 people, three picnic areas, 16 horse/people family campsites, a horse/people group camp for up to 45 horses and people, equestrian day use facilities, and more than 100 miles of riding and hiking trails.

	<u>1983/84</u>	<u>1982/83</u>	<u>1981/82</u>	<u>1980/81</u>
<u>Visitor Attendance</u>				
Day Use	381,152	344,694	331,999	281,700
Camping	<u>224,853</u>	<u>172,351</u>	<u>208,991</u>	<u>210,664</u>
TOTAL	606,005	517,045	540,990	492,364

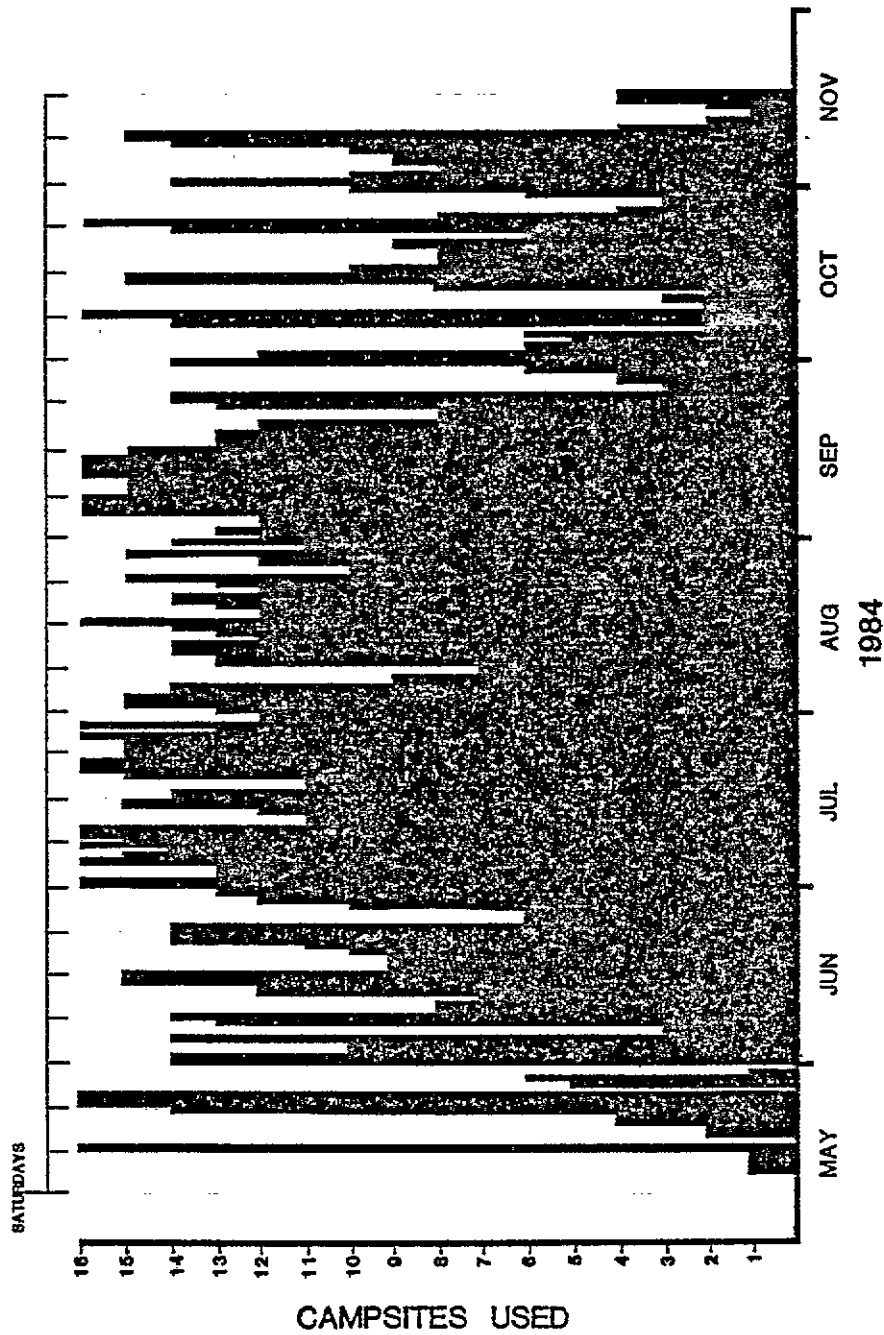
The following attendance charts show the very heavy weekend and summertime use. At these high-use times, the park does not have enough campgrounds to accommodate the people who desire to stay overnight. The numbers of people turned away by telephone are not recorded by the computerized reservation system (Ticketron). Some indication of the need for camping in the park is indicated by calls to the park to reserve group camps; the park staff estimates that, during the peak use season, there are eight or nine requests for group camps every week, and about five of these are turned down. If primitive camps and group horse camps are included, there are more likely 25 weekly requests for facilities, and about 15 are turned down.

The most well-defined recreation need is for horse/people camping. This need was clearly defined by the horse/people user groups themselves.

There are 16 individual equestrian campsites at the state park. There are few other individual equestrian camps in the mountain areas of San Diego County (including federal, state, county, city, and private lands). These 16 sites are very popular among equestrians, and are known throughout California.

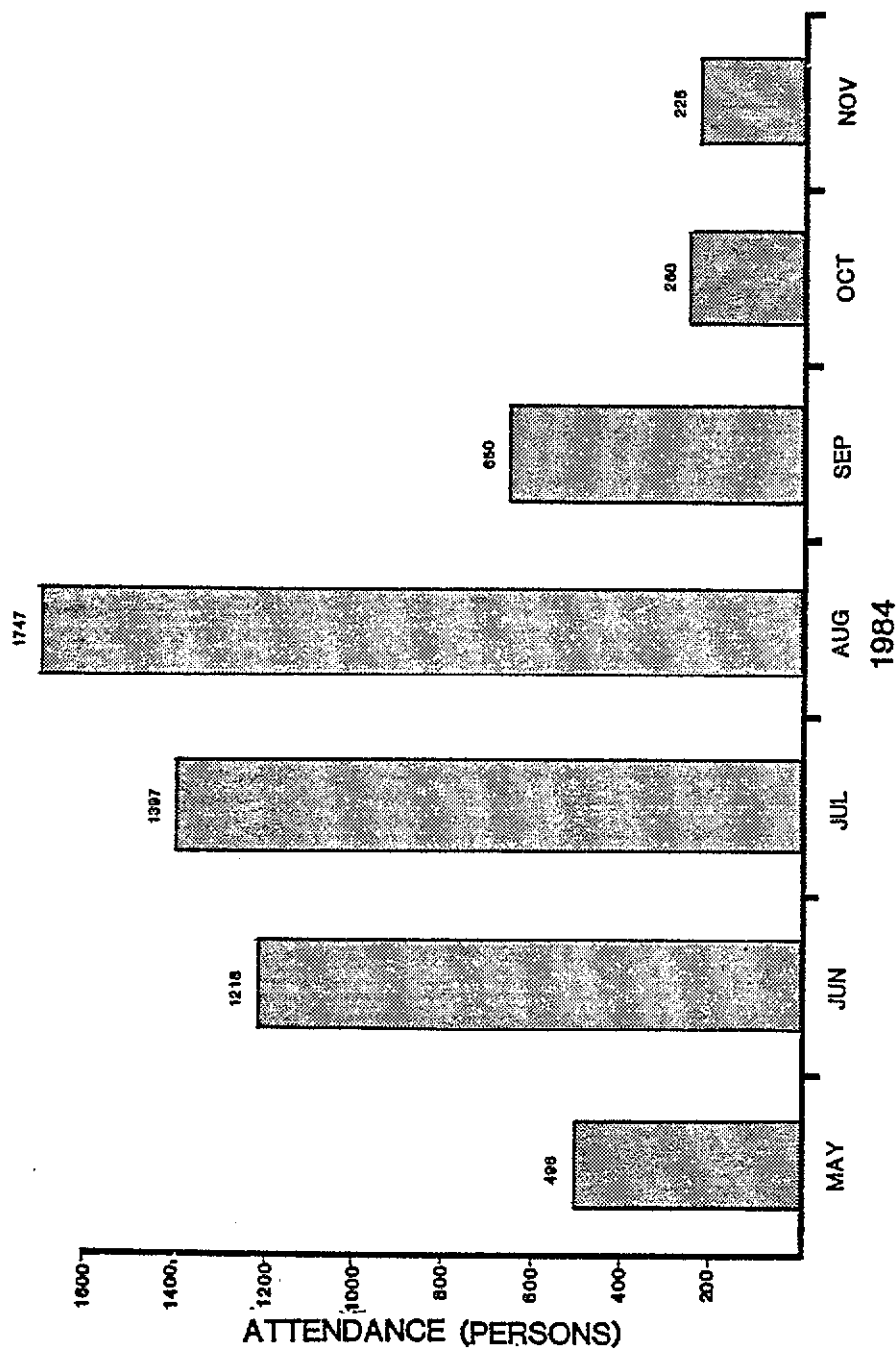
Each of the sites has two pipe corrals, ample space for horse trailer loading and parking, and all standard camp furniture and comfort stations. All roads in the corral areas are dirt/gravel, left unpaved for the health and safety of the horses. Maintenance of such facilities is much greater than for standard family campsites.

Some people have simply not been able to reserve an equestrian campsite through Ticketron, although trying repeatedly to do so. The equestrian campsites can be reserved through Ticketron eight weeks in advance. It is suspected that some people make Ticketron reservations and don't bother to use them, or to cancel their reservations. This causes the frustrating result of the much-sought-after campsites sitting vacant on very crowded summer weekends.



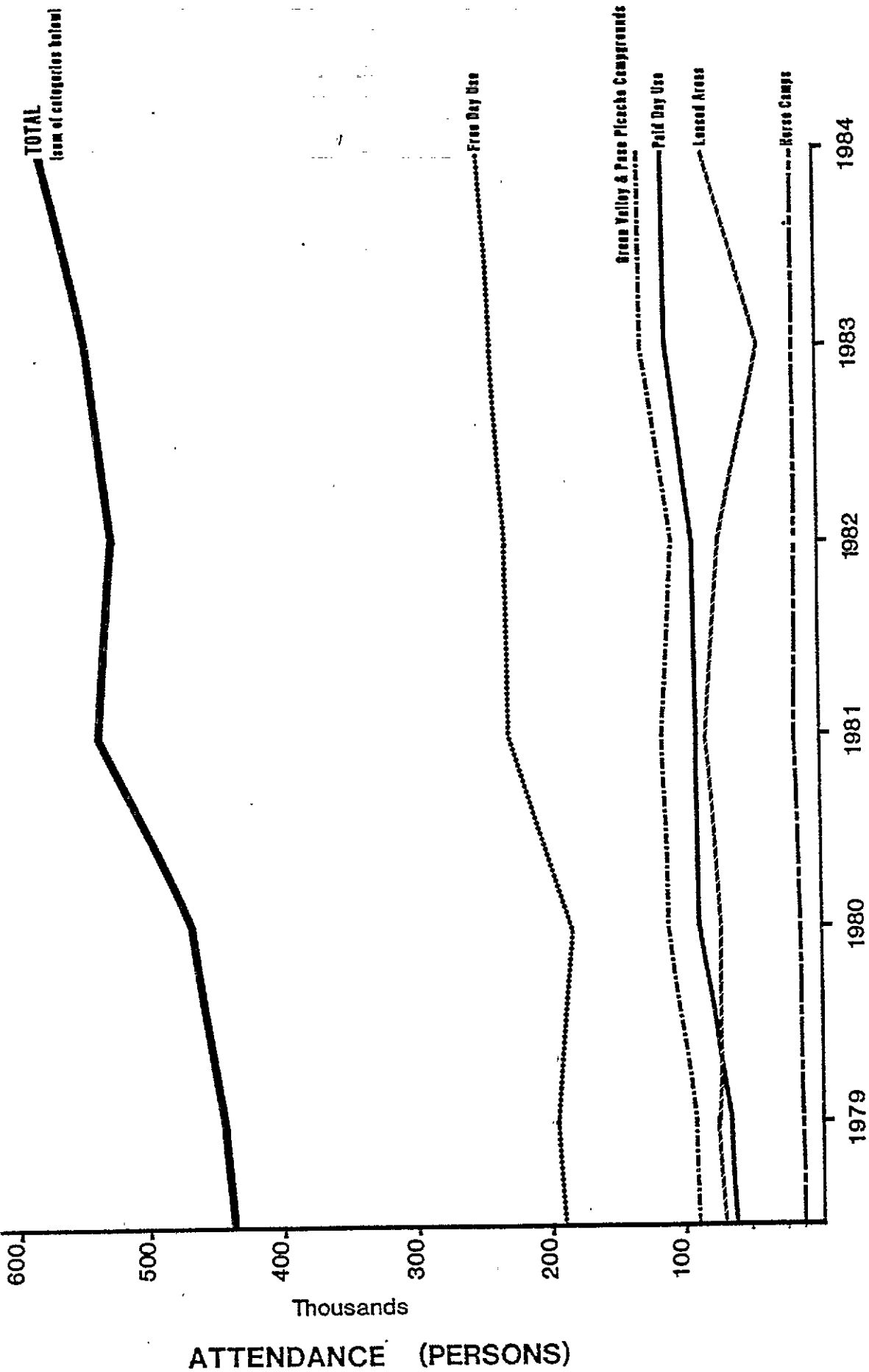
LOS CABALLOS FAMILY CAMPGROUND

The graph for Los Caballos Family Campground represents the number of campsites used per day from May through November. Saturdays are indicated by tick marks. The campground is closed from December through April.



LOS VAQUEROS GROUP CAMPGROUND

The graph for Los Vaqueros Group Campground represents monthly attendance (in persons) from May through November of 1984. The campground is closed from December through April.



VISITOR USE

The top solid line represents the total number of people who visited Cuyamaca Rancho State Park from 1979 through 1984. This total includes attendance figures for free day use, paid day use, family and group camping, horse camps, and leased areas. The graph represents most of these categories separately as free day use, paid day use, Paso Picacho and Green Valley Campgrounds, group and family campgrounds, and leased areas, which include Boy Scout and city/county school camp areas.

A typical camper can take the risk of finding someplace to camp without a reservation, but an equestrian camper (knowing that there are only 16 available sites) cannot risk loading horses, bags, saddles, feed, etc., into a trailer and driving a long distance, on the chance that some other person will not show up.

According to officials involved with the San Diego County Riding and Hiking Trails Program, the past year has been eventful for trails in the San Diego region. There has been considerable progress in adding new trails, and developing plans for future trails. This progress will inevitably cause increased demand for camping, and particularly for equestrian camping.

Recreation in California is a shared responsibility among the many public, semi-public, and private agencies involved. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park must look to the surrounding region, and the other recreation suppliers in the area, for help in fulfilling equestrian camping and other recreation needs.

The open space quality of the state park is outstanding, and this quality need not compete with surrounding suppliers for attraction and accommodation of people with automobiles, horse trailers, and recreational vehicles. As mentioned above (page 38), the U.S. Forest Service has already included group and individual equestrian camping in its Recreation Resource Plan. Other surrounding recreation suppliers, including San Diego County and private resorts, should become aware of this opportunity to provide camping -- especially equestrian camping.

Transportation and Circulation

State Highway 79 bisects Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, providing obvious access by motor vehicle. There are about 50 highway miles between downtown San Diego and the park. Driving about 40 miles along Interstate 8, and about 10 miles along State Highway 79 north, will put you well into the park.

From downtown Los Angeles, you can drive 115 miles south on Interstate 5 to Interstate 8, then 50 miles to Cuyamaca Rancho State Park -- a total of 165 miles. Another alternative route from downtown Los Angeles is driving south on Interstate 5 about 85 miles to State Highway 78, then turning east on 78 and going about 60 miles to the town of Julian, where you would follow State Highway 79 south about 10 miles, into the north end of the park -- a total of about 155 miles.

The park is accessible by public transportation via the San Diego city bus system, with transfer to the San Diego County Northeast Rural Bus System, Inc. Arrangements must be made in advance with the county bus system. Access by bus to the park is provided only on "demand response," on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is not accessible by air or rail transportation.

Bicycling access is available along the same state highway system as motor vehicle access.

The horseback riding and hiking trail system provides access to the surrounding Cleveland National Forest, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, and the Pacific Crest Trail.

Current Land Use

There are 13,200 acres classified as wilderness, and 2,560 acres of cultural preserves. Two of the cultural preserves lie partially or wholly within wilderness areas; a total of 14,400 acres are currently used as wilderness and cultural preserves combined.

Most of the remaining 10,224 acres of the state park are currently used as scenic open space. The existing facilities accessible by motor vehicle (not including trails and trail camps) include day-use parking, family camps and picnic areas, equestrian camps, youth group camps, park maintenance developments, and all roads and highways. All of these facilities combined cover a total of about 280 acres.

One important aspect of these existing developments is that many were built by CCC crews during the 1930s. The reason this is significant is that this was quality masonry and grading work, and is in place today, still beautiful, still absorbing heavy use after being heavily used for half a century. These facilities have saved these popular campgrounds from eroding away and eventually being closed. The CCC work at Cuyamaca is living testimony that quality design and workmanship can provide facilities used by hundreds of thousands of people over many, many years without destruction to the environment.

Visitor support facilities are spaced out along State Highway 79 into three main development areas: the Green Valley Falls camp and picnic grounds in the southern area; the park headquarters and youth camp in the central area; and the Paso Picacho camp and picnic grounds and the Boy Scout camp in the northern area.

Proposed Land Use

The existing 13,200 acres of wilderness is recommended to remain in wilderness classification. The 1,200 acres of existing cultural preserves outside the wilderness boundaries are also recommended to remain in cultural preserve status. This leaves 10,224 acres of state park classification in this 24,624-acre unit. Eight thousand acres of the 10,224-acre state park area are comprised of slopes in excess of 15 percent, leaving 2,224 acres of land with less than 15 percent slopes and outside wilderness and cultural preserve areas. The steep, sloping lands (more than 15 percent slope) are recommended for open space, and (as necessary) for trail use.

Parking areas, camp and picnic grounds, administrative areas, and so forth are recommended in areas of less than 15 percent slope. At least 1,000 acres of the 2,224-acre gently sloping to flat terrain are comprised of meadows. Accessible as the meadows are because many are adjacent to State Highway 79, the meadows are one of the park's most redeeming scenic attributes. It is recommended that the scenic/open space/environmental continuity of the meadows at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park be kept intact. The meadows are not suitable places for development because of the high water table and persistent dampness.

Most of the remaining 1,200 acres are small flats, scattered over the 24,624-acre park (outside the wilderness and cultural preserves). Many of these flats are not accessible from State Highway 79 without major road

construction. Generally, wherever these flats are accessible to State Highway 79 or existing development, the plan recommends expansion of recreational facility development. This expansion is suitable on approximately 105 acres total in accordance with the following chart, showing approximate acreages for current and additional developments:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Additional</u>
Los Caballos Area	35 acres	5 acres
Descanso Area	1 acre	3 acres
South End Area	0 acres	35 acres
Paso Picacho Area	55 acres	25 acres
Green Valley Falls Area	45 acres	15 acres
S.E.A.L. Camp	0 acres	5 acres
Park Headquarters and County School Camp Area	19 acres	1 acre
Cuyamaca Lake Area	0 acres	16 acres
TOTAL	290 acres	105 acres

Proposed Visitor Support/Administrative Facilities

The following descriptions of proposed facilities are intended to be general, especially when referring to numbers of campsites proposed. The descriptions provide approximate numbers of sites to give an estimated potential for development in the area. These estimates are based on site walk-overs and USGS quadrangle topography (1" = 2,000' scale and 40' contour intervals). Specific numbers of sites cannot be determined until detailed topographical mapping and site planning are completed.

Equestrian Support Facilities

Los Caballos Area

The plan recommends renovation of the existing 16-unit family equestrian campground. There are three existing campsites located on an archeological site; these campsites will be relocated. The plan recommends seven to 15 additional family equestrian campsites located immediately west of the existing campground, and south of the access road. A mounted assistance unit camp is also proposed in the Los Caballos Area.

No change is proposed for the group equestrian campground at Los Vaqueros, which has the capacity to accommodate 45 people and 45 horses.

Descanso Area

The plan recommends a new equestrian group camp area and trailhead in a one-to two-acre site off Viejas Boulevard, next to the town of Descanso. The stone house in the area would be retained; however, the frame house would be removed, pending the findings of historic structures reports. Recommended facilities include a parking lot, holding corrals, a hitching rack, watering troughs, camp furniture, and a restroom. The camp is recommended to accommodate 15 to 25 people and horses. Horseback riders and day-use hikers will have access to the southern part of the park from this point. They can

also camp overnight in one of the trail camps, and continue to more distant destinations. The equestrian camp will be accessible year-round because of its milder climate, at the lowest elevation of the park.

The Descanso Planning Group, with the support of the Board of Trustees of the Mt. Empire Unified School District and the Board of Directors of the Descanso Community Water District, has requested special consideration for sale of 3.97 acres of State Park System land that is contiguous to the Descanso Elementary School; 3.46 acres would be for use by the school district, and .51 acres would be for use by the water district.

The director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has recognized the needs of the community of Descanso. As a result, this plan recommends the sale of these 3.97 acres of land to the Mt. Empire Unified School District and the Descanso Community Water District.

In the event that, sometime in the future, the Descanso school district or water district no longer need the property on which the elementary school is located adjacent to the park, the department might, at that time, consider this property for purchase as an addition to Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (see "Long-Range Planning Recommendations for Future Additions," page 70).

South End Area

The plan recommends a new 15- to 30-unit equestrian campground at this location. The proposal includes a design that would be adaptable for both equestrian family and equestrian group uses. An advance tree planting program or shade structures will be needed for successful use of this area during the summer season.

Overnight Support Facilities

Paso Picacho Area

Renovation is recommended throughout the existing 85-unit family campground, picnic areas, and maintenance facilities. Water, sewer, and electrical power systems are proposed to be replaced as necessary for public health and safety purposes. Replacement of existing worn-out camp furniture and structures (restrooms and retaining walls) and revegetation of denuded areas are proposed. The plan also recommends an additional 20 to 30 camp units. The expansion is proposed in the flat areas to the north and south of the existing campground. New campsites are proposed in clusters of three to five sites each. These clusters will be suitable for the growing numbers of small family groups, as well as providing individual, separate sites. The existing group campground contains facilities to serve two groups of up to 60 persons each; no change is proposed for this campground area. No change is proposed for the day-use facilities area.

Green Valley Falls Area

Renovation is recommended throughout the existing 81-unit family campground and picnic area. The water, sewer, and electric power systems are proposed to be replaced as necessary for public health and safety purposes. Replacement of existing worn-out camp furniture and structures (restrooms and retaining walls) and revegetation of denuded areas are proposed. The new sites will be

located along an existing undeveloped loop road north of the family campground. The plan recommends an additional 15 to 25 sites. New campsites are proposed in clusters of three to five sites each. These clusters will be suitable for the growing numbers of small family groups, as well as providing individual, separate sites. The plan also recommends a bridge across Sweetwater River. Existing access is restricted to summertime use in most of this area, because the existing road crossing the river to the campgrounds is via a ford.

The plan recommends separation of picnicking use from camping use. Motor vehicle access to the day-use parking lot near the falls is proposed to bypass the campground.

S.E.A.L. Camp Area

A new group campground is recommended to serve one large group of 75 to 100 people, or two smaller groups of 35 to 50 people each. This site was once used by the U.S. Navy Seabees, hence its name. The site is adjacent to Engineers Road, and springs are available as a water source. The trail to William Heise County Park is located nearby. Proposed facilities include parking lots, cooking and eating areas, tent pads, and restrooms with showers.

Lakeside Area

A new 20- to 30-site family campground is recommended for this area, located across State Highway 79 opposite the lakeshore. The site once contained a private campground. It offers easy access to the lakeshore, and to Middle Peak trails.

Lake Cuyamaca Recreation and Park District lands are located at the northern boundary of the state park lands. This district provides lakeside camping, boat rental facilities, and food and beverage services. The amount of land available for these recreation facilities is restricted to a narrow strip between State Highway 79 and the lakeshore.

The sewer treatment facilities which now serve the recreation district area are limited in capacity. They consist basically of septic systems and effluent holding tanks. Sludge is periodically pumped and transported to El Cajon for discharge into the collector lines of the Metropolitan Sewer System. Effluent tanks are emptied daily during the spring/fall peak-use period, and are surface-discharged near Lake Cuyamaca in a remote off-watershed area (private property).

Surface disposal privileges could be revoked at any time. Finding another site for effluent discharge, which would be approved by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the landowner, might be very difficult if not impossible. The frequency of required effluent pumping and the possibility of pumper truck breakdown place this waste disposal system in daily jeopardy.

The department wishes to cooperate with the Lake Cuyamaca Recreation and Park District to the extent possible, in accordance with State Park System objectives, rules, and regulations. It is not the purpose of this or any State Park System unit to solve the sewage disposal problems of surrounding landowners. Certainly, in this case, it is not the State Park System's responsibility to provide the recreation district with solutions to its sewer problems.

The department appreciates all the surrounding recreation suppliers, and recognizes the advantages of shared responsibilities by all public and private agencies in providing recreation. The Lake Cuyamaca Recreation and Park District's facilities are of value to the state park, because their provision of public recreation lessens the need to provide more on State Park System lands.

The plan recommends that if Cuyamaca Rancho State Park lands are used for sewage disposal other than for State Park System facilities, such use be restricted by all of the following conditions:

1. That sewage disposal facilities serve needed public recreation facilities which are operated by a public agency.
2. That they serve an already existing public facility, and that there will be no expansion of the facility in the future.
3. That environmental impact on state park lands is held to a minimum, and that no sensitive state park resources are jeopardized.
4. That any proposal be reviewed and approved by county health authorities, the department's engineers, and the Office of the State Architect's engineers.
5. That the design, approval, and construction process is done at the expense of the proposing agency.
6. That rationale is given providing proof to the satisfaction of the department that no other alternatives exist economically, technologically, or socially.

General Support Facilities

Trail Camp Areas

Two new trail camps and two expanded existing trail camps are recommended along the trail system, to provide overnight rest for long-distance hikers and horseback riders. The camps are proposed to be primitive, and to cause a minimum of disturbance to the environment. Proposed facilities include two to five campsites, and a back-country (no flush) toilet. Water will be provided if it is reasonably available. Horse hitching racks and water troughs, if provided, will be located at least 100 feet from the campsites.

Trails

The trail system is essential to public access and enjoyment of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Most of the park's 25,000-acre area can be reached only by trail.

Planning decisions concerning trail alignments rely almost totally on specific site conditions. Soils, slope, drainage, vegetation, and cultural sensitivity are crucial to trail design, and all are likely to have extreme variation along any chosen route.

A general plan cannot include the meticulous, detailed information required for determining all trail alignments for an entire trail system. This plan recommends a trail system concept which will provide varying lengths of loop trails, and which provides trail access to all parts of this state park unit, while making efficient use of trail camps and connections to USFS and county park trail systems. The plan also recommends that the alignments of the trail system be determined on-site by State Park System staff and representatives of cultural groups, working with volunteers who use the trail system (see Operations Element).

Lake View Area

A new picnic area and an interpretive facility are recommended at this site, adjacent to the intersection of State Highway 79 and Engineers Road. The site consists of about 20 acres of open grassland, gently sloping toward the lake, and it provides a scenic setting for visitors to enjoy picnicking. Five to 15 picnic sites are proposed, and the facility could also serve as a trailhead. The site makes an ideal location for an information station for visitor orientation, because it is located at the northern entrance to the park.

Stonewall Area

The plan recommends expansion and improvement of interpretive facilities at this site. An on-site interpretive program that will provide a quality recreational and educational experience for visitors is proposed. The theme and concepts of the expansion program are discussed in the Interpretive Element, page 53.

Park Headquarters and County School Camp Area

A major new museum to display and interpret the park's cultural and natural resources is recommended, at a site adjacent to and north of the present park headquarters parking lot. The museum development is recommended to include indoor and outdoor exhibit spaces, plus a parking area with picnic and restroom facilities. The theme and concepts of the museum are discussed in the Interpretive Element, page 53.

The present park headquarters and the Indian Museum are now both housed in the Dyar House. A small parking lot, with a few picnic tables and a comfort station, provides public access to the facilities. After the new museum is constructed, the Indian exhibits are proposed to be relocated to the new museum, and the park offices are proposed to be renovated to occupy the Dyar House.

The plan recommends that lease agreements with the San Diego County School Camp be revised and continued only within the objectives of the State Park System, and within State Park System rules and regulations. See the Operations Element, page 65, for proposed improvements in the lease agreements.

Boy Scout Camp

The plan recommends that lease agreements with the Boy Scout Camp be revised and continued only within the objectives of the State Park System, and within State Park System rules and regulations. See the Operations Element, page 65, for proposed improvements in the lease agreements.

Department of Corrections Camp Area

A Department of Corrections camp called La Cima is located on the eastern boundary of the state park. The plan recommends that ultimately, the camp be removed from the park, and the natural vegetation restored. The existing road scar is recommended to be restored.

Mardy Minshall's House Area

The plan recommends historic structures reports on the structures in this area. Following this evaluation, a decision will be made to restore or remove them. In either case, an interim mounted assistance unit (MAU) camp is proposed here. This interim camp could remain in the Mardy Minshall area until it is replaced by a permanent MAU camp in the Los Caballos Area, as proposed (see page 45).

United States Forest Service Residences Area

The U.S. Forest Service occupies two residences at the southern boundary, next to Highway 79. The plan recommends that the residences ultimately be occupied by State Park System staff.

Proposed Phasing of Development

The plan recommends a phasing of initial developments. Each phase shall be evaluated after development takes place, to determine in what ways the facilities are being used, and what would be appropriate future development to accommodate visitors and their needs within the constraints of the plan.

Recommended Development Phases

Phase 1

- o Rehabilitate and expand the Los Caballos equestrian camp.
- o Develop a new museum at the park headquarters area.

Phase 2

- o Rehabilitate the Green Valley Falls campground and picnic area.
- o Rehabilitate the Paso Picacho campground, picnic area, and park maintenance area.
- o Develop the Descanso Area.

Phase 3

- o Develop the Lake Cuyamaca Camp.
- o Develop the S.E.A.L. Camp.
- o Develop new trail camps.

Phase 4

- o Expand the Green Valley Falls campground.
- o Expand the Paso Picacho campground.

Phase 5

- o Develop the South End equestrian facilities.

Long-Range Planning Recommendations for Future Additions

Proposals discussed here are intended for long-range planning purposes only, and are not a commitment for acquisition. Public use of and access to Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is not dependent on the proposals described in this section.

The plan recognizes the very desirable location, topography, scenery, and natural resources of the "Lucky 5 Ranch," especially in relationship to the adjacent State Park System lands. This approximately 3,500-acre ranch separates Cuyamaca Rancho State Park from Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, along the northwest boundary of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. It is accessible by motor vehicle off Sunrise Highway (County Road S1), which provides public motor vehicle access to the Mt. Laguna recreation area in the Cleveland National Forest. This 24-mile stretch of county road connects Interstate 8, south of the park, with State Highway 79, north of Lake Cuyamaca.

The "Lucky 5 Ranch" is a single spacious and scenic canyon. A few ranch structures have been built, but it is mostly wild and open, and has public recreation potential.

In the event that the Mt. Empire Unified School District no longer needs the property adjacent to the park, the plan also recognizes the value of that property. This southern portion of the park is at a lower elevation, and only two miles from Interstate 8. The milder weather makes this location very suitable for a park maintenance yard, especially for storage of equipment and materials. The plan's long-range proposal would relocate the Paso Picacho equipment and materials storage to the Descanso school property, and would provide for additional campground expansion at Paso Picacho. The plan recommends that any land sale agreement with the school district include "first right of refusal" for the department, if the district decides to sell the land.

The equestrian camp as proposed in the plan (see "Proposed Facility Development," page 45) would have a potential for expansion, because there would be less need for buffer/separation between park maintenance and storage/equestrian staging than between public school/equestrian staging.

The plan also recognizes the value of the Lake Cuyamaca Recreation and Park District properties at the northern boundary of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. The recreation potential of the lake, and its integration with State Park System lands, would make this an important future addition if the park district were ever to consider disbanding.

INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT

For more detail, see the Interpretive Prospectus for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park prepared by the Office of Interpretive Services, on file at Department of Parks and Recreation headquarters in Sacramento and at the park.

Interpretive Period

Interpretation of the park's cultural resources will use a flow of history approach, from earliest known human occupation to the present.

Interpretive Themes

Recognizing the diversity of resources at Cuyamaca, interpretive themes are many, and are considered of equal importance. Rather than ranking all of them primary or secondary, they are organized into several key areas, with "related themes" clustered around "major themes." These terms are not meant to imply relative significance, but rather to show connections between themes.

Natural History Themes

Major Theme:

Building a Mountain Range: Cuyamaca Region Geology

The tectonic, seismic, and plutonic forces forming the Peninsular Ranges should be interpreted, covering the reasons for the tilting and uplift that created the steep eastern escarpment, the intrusion of the southern California batholith and how this is evident today in the park landscape, the process of gold emplacement in the rocks, and the different kinds of rocks found in the park (including soapstone).

Related Themes:

Turning Into a Desert: Changing Climate

The climate and landscape of Pleistocene southern California should be described to park visitors, as well as the warming and drying trend that resulted in today's mountain and desert climates, and its effects on human and other life forms over thousands of years. This theme should also deal with the park's present climate, including the meteorological forces creating summer thunderstorms, the fall Santa Ana winds, and the winter snows.

Recalling the Past: An Ecological Island

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is in an area of relict mesic vegetation, in a generally arid region of the state. The geographic and climatic reasons why many plants are found here, far south of their usual ranges and many miles from other similarly isolated populations, should be interpreted to park visitors.

Major Theme:

Patterns on the Land: Plant Communities at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Interpretation should describe the diverse plant communities in the park, and explain why certain plants live in association with each other, why plant communities grow where they do, and the habitat values of ecotones among plant communities. Any particular sensitivities of specific plants or plant communities should be emphasized to bolster park resource management efforts.

Related Themes:

Living Off the Fat of the Land: Cuyamaca's Animal Populations

Interpretation should introduce visitors to the variety of animal life in the park, in contrast to sparser animal populations in surrounding, less nourishing habitat areas. The usefulness of plant communities and ecotones as animal habitat should be interpreted. Using the mountain lion-deer and other similar relationships as examples, the useful role of predators in the environment can also be interpreted.

Destroyer and Creator: Fire at Cuyamaca

The history of natural and human-caused fires at the park should be interpreted. Fire's immediate and long-range consequences (both negative and positive) on the park's various plant communities should be explained as should the related concept of plant succession. Interpretation should also explain the department's changing attitude toward fire in wildlands, and educate visitors about the use of prescribed burning in some areas of the park.

The Wild Lands Around You: State Park Wilderness Areas

The department's wilderness policy and goals should be explained to visitors. Interpretation should underscore the high-quality resource and habitat values of the wildernesses at the park, as an aid to administration of resource management policies.

Cultural History Themes

Major Theme:

Our Rich and Beautiful Homeland: The Indian People of the Cuyamaca Region

Pre-contact use of the park's bountiful resources by the Kumeyaay people and at least two earlier cultures should be interpreted. Exhibits should explain the influence of changing climate since Pleistocene times, and alterations in lifestyle, social structure, and material culture over time. The Kumeyaay people in the region from the Pacific Coast to the Colorado River will be the subjects of exhibits for this theme, but it should focus especially on the flowering of their culture in the area now in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Related Theme:

Clues to Lives Gone By: Archeology at Cuyamaca

The history and results of archeological work at the park and interpretation of present investigations should be provided to visitors. The outstanding archeological resources at the park should be described, to foster respect and prevent their depredation.

1. Subtheme: The Ongoing Study of the Past: Investigations of the 1930s-1940s, 1950s-1960s, and 1970s-1980s should be described showing differing methodologies, the progression of knowledge about Cuyamaca's pre-contact cultures, and the importance of collections obtained.
2. Subtheme: How to Visit and Appreciate an Archeological Site: Interpretation should tell visitors what features to look for, and how to understand clues about how the site was used by ancient peoples. An exhibit should stress how to inspect a site without adversely affecting it.
3. Subtheme: Messages in Stone: Interpretation should present the latest theories on the significance of various stone features found at the park, such as Cuyamaca ovals and cupules.
4. Subtheme: Soapstone, Cuyamaca's Ancient Treasure: The significance of park soapstone quarries as a source of a rare material, with many applications in the lives of the Kumeyaay people and value as a trade item, should be interpreted.
5. Subtheme: Specialists at Work at Arrowmakers' Ridge: Interpretation of this uniquely prolific site should describe the variety of styles and materials and huge quantities of points, and explain methods for studying the materials employed by department staff.

Major Theme:

Taking the Land: Euroamerican History in the Cuyamaca Area

Interpretation should cover the history of the Hispanic and American presence in the Cuyamaca Mountains, from Fages' earliest expedition to present state park use. The focus of exhibits should be the land's abundance of relatively scarce natural resources and how each immigrant group sought to exploit them; the earliest newcomers wanted timber and grazing land, farmers and ranchers also sought land, miners removed gold and used timber, and recreationists seek facilities and also unspoiled land. Biographical information on influential people who lived in the Cuyamaca area or had an interest in it should also be available to park visitors.

Related Themes:

Lives and Lifestyles Lost

The mines that were worked after the missions closed should be interpreted, as should the conditions that allowed Indian people to live in the Cuyamaca area relatively undisturbed until the late 19th century. However, the decimation of the Kumeyaay population and culture, as their land base was overrun by settlers, should not be neglected.

Charting New Directions: The Kumeyaay and Their Descendants Today

Modern reservations and recent government policies affecting the Indian people should be interpreted. The efforts of San Diego and Imperial County Indians to achieve self-determination should also be part of this interpretation. There is a need for studies to further our knowledge about the contemporary history of these people.

Finding Hidden Treasure: The Stonewall Mine

The history of the rise and fall of the Stonewall Mine should be interpreted to park visitors. Exhibits should cover ownership, interesting biographical information about people associated with the mine, the development and productivity of the mine, the reasons for the boom and bust periods, the growth of Cuyamaca City, what life was like in a company town, and why the mine closed.

Secondary Theme:

The State Park Story: Department Policy and Management of a Special Park

Visitors should learn about the history of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park since its acquisition. An important aspect of this story is the evolution of resource management at the park. Interpretation of the department's changing attitude toward natural and cultural resources can integrate information from other themes by dealing with such topics as predator control, fire suppression, wilderness management, and management of sensitive cultural sites.

Proposed Interpretation

Facilities

Interpretive facilities proposals will be consistent with the Resource Element policy calling for the concentration of new construction in areas that will not be adversely affected by increased use.

Interpretation is now fragmented in several locations, and there is no connection between information given at each place. A primary objective of future interpretive development at the park will be to centralize these disparate elements. The major new interpretive facility proposed for the park is a museum with exhibits covering all interpretive themes. Interpretation at the museum will cover the material culture and ethnography of the Indian peoples of Cuyamaca, as well as the Indians whose trade or migration routes

brought them across or near the land now in the park, the history and practice of archeology at the park and the artifacts obtained, the park's natural resources, recent history, and the department's evolving resource management policies.

Unifying interpretation will make it possible to show relationships between themes, and, thus, to address a subject or explain a concept from several perspectives. For example, plant communities at the park can be interpreted in and of themselves, as relict islands of ancient vegetation, as habitats for animals, as they are (or are not) dependent on fire, as resource bases for Indian peoples, and as distinct areas requiring different management strategies on the part of the department.

The diversity of interpretive themes and media at the facility will distinguish it as something more than just a visitor center, where only basic information and orientation are usually available. Proposed exhibits about Indian people illustrate the wide array of media that could be used at the museum. These include display of archeological collections and post-contact artifacts, use of historic and modern photographs, personal accounts either in text or audio form, audio-visual shows, and live programs. It would also be possible to meld themes through some media. An example would be using the same diorama to depict a plant community, the animals that use it for habitat, and how Indian people exploited it for food and other materials.

Connections between themes can have spatial implications for the museum. See the Diagram of Interpretive Theme Relationships for a possible arrangement of theme clusters that could be translated into physical spaces.

Current estimates are that the museum will require a building of sufficient size to accommodate all proposed uses and activities, plus copious parking. The museum should have a large exhibit hall, divided between cultural and natural history interpretation. In addition, there should be adequate storage and a laboratory-studio space for curation of artifacts and preparation of specimens and exhibits, archives and a library, a theater for audio-visual programs as well as lectures and interpretive talks, and an outdoor space for outdoor programs. There should also be a museum store staffed by park docents.

The museum site should have easy access from Highway 79. A possible site exists just north of the park headquarters parking lot, on approximately one acre of land with minimal resource sensitivities. If, in the future, this site should prove unacceptable, further studies should occur regarding site requirements before a final selection is made.

Some themes may only be introduced at the museum, and visitors referred to satellite exhibit areas in the park where interpretation might be more appropriate. Exploration/settlement and gold mining can be interpreted at the Dyar House and the Stonewall Mine, respectively. Construction of the museum would necessitate changes in exhibits now in place at both these sites. If it is decided that the Dyar House ought to be turned over exclusively to park administration, the Hispanic and American eras could be interpreted in the museum. Otherwise, the space that now houses the Indian exhibits and settlement displays should be used to supplement museum interpretation of exploration and settlement.

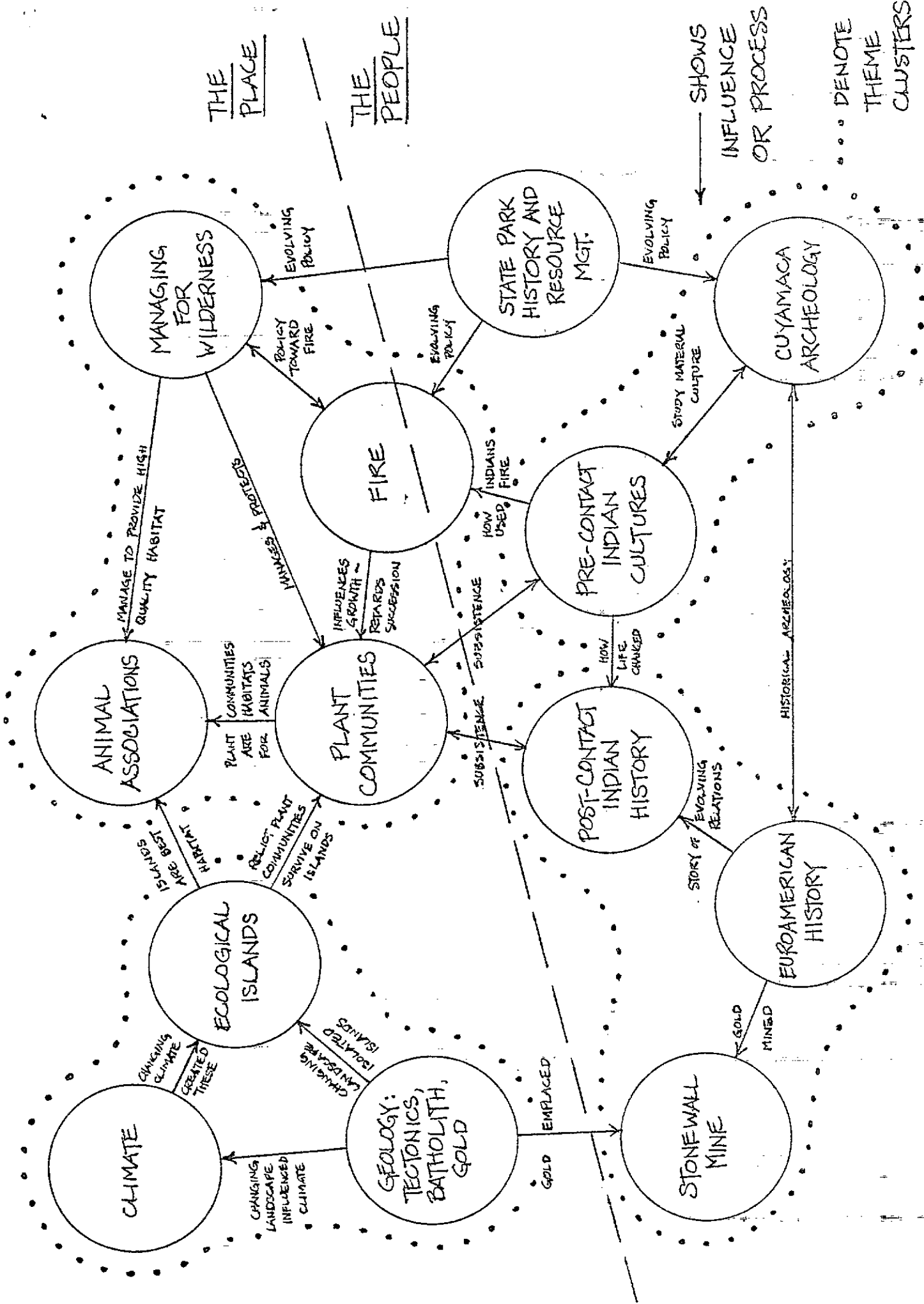


DIAGRAM OF INTERPRETIVE THEME RELATIONSHIPS FOR CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK

Interpretation at the Stonewall Mine should be expanded to include more of its short but eventful history, and more information about people who were linked with the mine. The reconstructed miner's cabin that now contains exhibits should be enlarged. It could then be turned into a small mine interpretive center, more roomy than the existing building. Exhibits there should relate to information given in the museum, and enlarge on it.

The small nature interpretive center at Paso Picacho could be subsumed by the museum. This building could then continue to serve interpretive purposes, and be available for other uses.

Satellite sites relating to plant communities or archeological interpretation in the field will need to be chosen after studies reveal suitable locations.

Visitor orientation displays should be constructed near Highway 79 where it enters the park from the north and south. These will help visitors distinguish the state park as an entity separate from surrounding jurisdictions, where recreational opportunities are also available. These areas should have attractive views into the park. Each site should have interpretive panels installed displaying a map of the park, and brief descriptions of recreational opportunities, resource values, and park management policies. A bulletin board could announce upcoming events in the park and the adjacent Cleveland National Forest.

Several large turnouts along park roads provide inviting vistas of the park's meadows and mountains. Interpretive panels in these places can be especially useful to the people in transit on Highway 79 who may not have time for other park interpretation. Topics should be tailored to the view from each of the turnouts.

More interpretive panels should be placed in the campgrounds, including the horse camps and day-use areas. These, like the turnout panels, should deal with resources close at hand. More so than displays at highway turnouts, however, these panels should emphasize park regulations, especially with respect to sensitive resources.

Panels at trailheads and staging areas can provide maps of trail routes, interesting features along the way, and connections with other trails. The text should let visitors know about distances, elevation gains and losses, and whether or not there is water along the way.

The campfire centers at the park need attention. Some improvements at the Paso Picacho campfire center have already been accomplished with the help of the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association. Work should continue here until this campfire center has been upgraded to a first-class facility. Specific recommendations include installing a reverse screen projector, which would allow expansion of the seating and the stage. The Green Valley campfire center should be furnished with electricity to enable presentation of slide shows. The small site does not allow installation of a rear screen projector, but seating here could also be increased. Campfire centers should also be constructed at the horse camps, including the proposed horse camp in the south part of the park.

Many opportunities for more self-guiding trail development exist in the park, including self-guiding equestrian trails. There should be more short, easily accessible nature trails, and possibly a trail to an archeological site.

Two kinds of media are commonly used on self-guiding trails, signs, and brochures. Generally, interpretive signs should be used only on those self-guiding trails that are close to developed facilities. Longer, more remote trails should be interpreted using brochures.

Self-guiding trails should be developed for the Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City area, using photographs from the department's files. This would be a good way to give an accurate impression of how intensive development was in this area of the park during the mine's operation. Trees have grown up and buildings have been razed since then, and it is difficult to relate past features to the existing landscape.

The park staff is now seeking a license to operate a low output radio transmitter for motorists on Highway 79. When in operation, the message will advise them about park rules, activities, things to see, and available facilities. In the future, the department might install a series of transmitters along the highway to broadcast longer programs, and it might work jointly with the Cleveland National Forest in producing programs.

The department should also consider sharing jurisdiction with the Cleveland National Forest to furnish more trails linking the state park and the national forest. Some of these might be self-guiding. A 50-mile self-guided automobile tour has also been proposed for joint development by the state park and the national forest.

The Interpretive Association

The Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association is a large and energetic organization, with approximately 150 members. It is divided roughly half and half between people who participate in the Mounted Assistance Unit, which patrols the backcountry on horseback and offers help to people who need it, and docents, who volunteer their time to staff the various interpretive centers, give programs, and lead guided tours.

CRSPIA (pronounced "crispia") has had many other important functions at the park. It helped to update the slide show equipment at the campfire center at the Paso Picacho Campground, and to build the campfire center at the Green Valley Campground. It has been involved in developing the radio transmission system. As an aid to getting private money into needed park improvements, it has published a "gift catalog," describing several park projects for which private citizens can make tax-deductible donations of money as "gifts" to the park.

Interpretive Collections

Because of the decades of archeology at Cuyamaca, there are extensive archeological collections. These are mostly now in storage at the various institutions that conducted digs there. Artifacts known to have been taken from the park after the land was acquired by the state in 1933 would belong to

the Department of Parks and Recreation. As a crucial first step to creating a park museum, a comprehensive study needs to be conducted to ascertain which artifacts actually belong to the state, their condition, and how much storage area will be necessary at the museum.

There are also private holdings of artifacts from Cuyamaca which have been offered to the department in the past, with the proviso that an adequate exhibit and storage area be available at the park.

Some Indian artifacts and a few each of Euroamerican-era artifacts and nature specimens are on exhibit at the park. The park also has some Indian artifacts in storage. In addition, the park possesses some tanned hides of mountain lions and bobcats which are used for interpretive programs. A stuffed mountain lion was recently acquired by the park, and will be displayed when a case has been built for it.

Some pottery ollas from Cuyamaca digs are in the Office of Interpretive Services collections facility in West Sacramento. These would be available for the museum.

Recommendations

Research Needs

1. Information about the post-contact ethnography of the Kumeyaay people and their lives today should be gathered as part of future interpretive planning.
2. The study to locate archeological collections and determine their condition must be carried out before planning can begin for the proposed museum.
3. Studies should occur as the prescribed burning program proceeds at the park, so these findings can be included in interpretive programs and exhibits on the subject.

Interpretive Considerations

As part of the future capital outlay program for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park the department should:

1. Build a park museum that will integrate interpretation of all themes for the park.
2. Build orientation/interpretation stations along Highway 79 at the north and south boundaries of the park.
3. Add to the existing interpretation at the Stonewall Mine.
4. Create new interpretive panels as capital outlay funding becomes available for new and existing campgrounds, day-use areas, and trailhead/staging areas.

5. Furnish scenic turnouts on park roads with interpretive panels.
6. Create signs and brochures for more self-guiding interpretive trails, and collaborate with the Cleveland National Forest in developing a self-guiding automobile tour.
7. Provide more literature about the park's history, resources, and department resource management policies.

CONCESSIONS ELEMENT

The Public Resources Code, Section 5080.02 et seq., describes the manner in which concessions can be operated in the State Park System. This plan does not recommend any concessions. If concessions are provided in a state park, they must provide a service to the public. And, as with visitor support facilities, the service provided must help to make state park areas available for public enjoyment in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural/scenic/cultural/ecological values.

OPERATIONS ELEMENT

The Operations Element is an integral part of the General Plan. It gives the staff providing on-site public service a guide for implementing the plan.

The operational staff at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is composed of full-time and seasonal employees. They are organized into three functions: administrative, maintenance, and visitor services. The park is managed by a District Superintendent, and receives support from the regional office and the department's operational headquarters.

This element outlines broad goals for operation of the park, in view of the other elements in the General Plan. It provides guidelines for day-to-day management as well as implementation of the Resource Element policies, land use/facilities proposals, and interpretive goals. The Operations Element also identifies existing or potential operational problems, and proposes strategies for solving them.

Existing Situation

A. Operational Summary

The operations staff assigned to Cuyamaca is composed of one Ranger II, five Ranger Is, one Ranger I (PI), one Park Maintenance Worker II, three Park Maintenance Worker Is, two Park Maintenance Assistants, and one Park Maintenance Worker I (PI). Seasonal staff, made up of approximately 10-15 Park Aids, assist in park operations during the busy use season. District staff, composed of the District Superintendent, Chief Ranger, Maintenance Supervisor, Regional Administrative Technician, OA II, and OA I (PI), are also involved with day-to-day operations in the unit.

Currently, most of the operational effort is spent at keeping the developed areas of the park functioning. Rangers spend most of their work days along Highway 79 or in the campgrounds. Unless there is an emergency, rangers generally do not patrol trails during busy periods. Likewise, facility maintenance is limited to the developed campgrounds. With 10 park residences and 17 restrooms, some more than 25 years old, maintenance of structures is a major part of the program.

In recent years, popular events in nearby Julian have increased off-season use. Day use, along with some camping, has been kept at or near capacity through the fall weekends. Spring use has also been high. With favorable weather conditions, the park may experience year-round use at or near capacity. Day use along Highway 79 has been difficult to monitor; the highway is open to travelers without contacting any entrance station. Park violations often occur with these users, because they are not given any information on park rules.

Cuyamaca has two youth camps on property leased to the Boy Scouts of America and to the San Diego County Department of Education. These camps provide programs for youths which include outdoor education. More than 200 sixth graders visit Camp Cuyamaca every week during the school year.

Camp La Cima, operated by the California Department of Forestry, is located in the park. The camp houses more than 100 county inmates, and provides three to four crew days a week to the park for maintenance projects. These crews are a major source of labor for park work projects.

B. Special Considerations

The condition of current facilities, i.e., water systems, sewage systems, restroom design, and campground layout, causes increased work for maintenance staff.

These older facilities require additional skilled maintenance time above what updated facilities would take to maintain. Thus, lower-priority tasks are not being done in an effort to keep current facilities operating. Riding and hiking trails throughout the park are heavily used, and require an ongoing maintenance program. With more than 100 miles of trails in conditions of rocky, steep terrain and erodible soils, one full-time maintenance position needs to be devoted to this program.

More than one half of the park's acreage is in wilderness status. Additional time for ranger staff is required to patrol, on foot or on horseback, those areas inaccessible to vehicles. One additional full-time Ranger I position is needed to adequately provide resource protection and public safety.

General Plan Implementation

A. Goals

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is noted for its rich natural and cultural resources. It also provides high-quality outdoor recreation, which is in short supply in Southern California. With this combination, a classic case of balancing the need to preserve resources and over-use of the resources is at hand.

Since the archeological resources in the park are not only irreplaceable but are a source of respect for past generations of inhabitants, protection of these resources will be a high priority. The unique ecosystems, with their flora and fauna, will also be an area requiring continual protection.

Within these concerns, recreational opportunities will be optimized. The quality of visitor experiences in the park is, in part, a factor of resource protection efforts.

In this regard, resource protection and enhancing visitor enjoyment of the park go hand in hand. Visitor use will be limited to that which can be mitigated adequately. This means that long-term effects on resources outside development areas will not be allowed. Damage to resources in developed areas will be kept to a minimum; steps will be taken to repair or avoid resource damage.

B. Operational Problems, Solutions, and Strategies

1. Though hundreds of thousands of people visit Cuyamaca Rancho State Park each year, it is estimated that a very small percentage of Southern Californians regularly enjoy park facilities and the mountain wilderness areas. Many more visitors could be served by the park if they had more knowledge of the park's attractions, and had greater access. To optimize use of the park for a broader population, programs both in the park and outside of the park's immediate community will be considered. An effort to enhance the visits of groups at the lease camps will be made. Marketing efforts both in the park and in metropolitan areas of Southern California will be pursued in coordination with regional and statewide marketing efforts.
2. Many visitors to Cuyamaca Rancho simply drive through on Highway 79, not realizing they are in a state park. Information systems, signs, travelers advisory radio stations, etc. will be used to alleviate some of this problem.
3. Equestrian use of heavily used hiking trails and roadways has caused some concerns for visitor safety, and undesirable trail conditions due to horse waste. As it is practical, equestrian use will be kept away from roads and heavily used hiking trails. Alternative equestrian routes will be considered.
4. The demand for more trails is increasing, and will continue to grow with new development. Trail development will occur only after sufficient review of cultural and natural resources which may be affected, as well as other alternatives for trails. The overall impact of trails both in size and quality will be kept minimal. Parallel trails or duplicate trails will be eliminated. Trails which have not been established (volunteer trails) will be eliminated, and their use discouraged.
5. There are more than 250 known archeological sites in the park, as well as four cultural preserves. Some of these sites are very significant to the region, if not nationally. Protection of these fragile sites from development and visitor abuse will be a high priority in operation of the park. Several methods of protecting these sites will be used: a) leaving the sites unknown to park visitors, and keeping trails away from the sites; b) burying the sites, covering them with appropriate material; c) fencing the sites to keep visitors out; d) law enforcement measures to enforce state laws against damaging archeological sites.
6. Both the County School Camp and the Boy Scout Camp, with their large numbers of visitors, can potentially cause significant damage to cultural and natural resources in the park. To ensure that the programs conducted at these camps enhance resource protection, the District Superintendent for Cuyamaca Rancho will review youth camp programs with their respective directors annually. The programs will also be monitored regularly by park staff.

7. The leases for the youth camps will be up for renewal in the near future. The present leases do not provide guidelines for the youth camp programs, or set limits on capacities or facilities. The department will work with the Boy Scouts of America and the San Diego County Department of Education to include these issues in future lease agreements. Management plans for these specific areas which ensure resource protection and compatibility with state park goals shall be included when the leases are renewed.
8. The California Department of Forestry has a lease agreement with the park for residences at Camp La Cima. These agreements were entered into with the understanding that labor from the La Cima inmate camp would be provided to the park, offsetting the impact of the leased areas on state park land. The department will negotiate with the California Department of Forestry for a minimum level of labor which must be provided to Cuyamaca Rancho State Park for this lease agreement.
9. Several informal road accesses exist through Cuyamaca Rancho State Park for neighboring landowners. These access rights will continue as long as no other practical means of access is available for neighboring property, and as long as any costs in developing and maintaining such access is borne by the parties needing access. Any work done by neighboring landowners on park roads must first be reviewed and approved by the department.
10. Several programs have been continuing at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park to restore the park's natural resources to their native condition. The prescribed burn, exotic plant eradication, and soil erosion control programs will be managed in conjunction with other park needs and programs. For example, the interpretive opportunities of a prescribed burn will be coordinated with visitor services staff at the park.
11. The demand for family and group campsites is very high, particularly during the summer months. The department will continue to seek a reservation system for these facilities which is equitable, in keeping with the rest of the State Park System, and most efficient for park operations.
12. As the number of visitors to the park increases in the future, various methods of managing visitor impact may be imposed. They may include the following: 1) All users (day and overnight visitors) will be required to register at a park office, and to obtain a wilderness permit before entering undeveloped portions of the park. 2) Portions of the park may be closed to all visitors to allow for resource protection or rehabilitation. 3) The issuing of wilderness permits will be limited by party size and overall number of visitors, to protect wilderness values and park resources. 4) In some portions of the park, both hikers and horse riders will be restricted to designated trails.

Operational Impacts

The following estimates of operational impacts on existing operational patterns are based on the maximum proposed visitor support facilities (see Land Use and Facilities Element, page 37). These estimates are necessarily imprecise. The proposed additions are scheduled to be developed in five distinct phases. However, the developments are considered here as they would affect the existing pattern of operations, and are grouped into operational entities.

Los Caballos Area

The plan recommends addition of up to 15 additional family equestrian campsites. This would effectively double the capacity of this facility. However, only a minimal increase in seasonal maintenance personnel should be required. These personnel will be involved primarily in housekeeping activities. The addition of an MAU camp at Los Caballos will have little if any impact on existing park operations. This involves only the transfer of an existing camp from the Stonewall Mine area to the Los Caballos area.

Descanso Area/South End Area

Proposed facilities include up to 30 equestrian family campsites at the South End area, and a 15 to 25 person and horse equestrian group camp and trailhead facility at the Descanso area. These areas are geographically distant from the existing equestrian facilities; this separation will constitute a significant impact on the existing pattern of park operations.

The existing facilities are maintained by equipment and personnel which will be unavailable and/or insufficient to maintain the proposed additional facilities. Additional equipment and staffing equivalent to that required by the existing facilities will be required to maintain the proposed facilities. Visitation will be expected to increase in direct proportion to existing facility visitation. An increase in the frequency of vehicle, foot, and horse patrols in the southern portion of the park will be required. This will result in a need for increased ranger staffing.

Paso Picacho/Green Valley Falls Area

The plan proposes renovation of both existing campgrounds, and addition of up to 55 family campsites.

This will have negligible impact on the existing campground operations and patrol needs. An increase in seasonal and permanent maintenance personnel will be required primarily for housekeeping tasks.

The separation of day-use and camping facilities should result in an easing of operational problems in the Green Valley Falls area.

S.E.A.L. Camp Area/Lakeside Area/Lake View Area

These areas are considered together; all three form a logical geographic unit for operational purposes. These developments will significantly affect the existing patterns of park operations.

Proposed facilities include a 30-site maximum family campground at the Lakeside area, a 100-person maximum group camp in the S.E.A.L. Camp area, and a 25-site/50-car day-use picnic facility at the Lake View area.

The developments will require significant augmentation in seasonal and permanent maintenance and visitor services staff for patrol, campground management, and maintenance and housekeeping.

Trail Camp Area

This plan proposes addition of up to 15 trail camp sites in three locations. These camps will be dispersed along fire roads and trails. This will make required housekeeping and maintenance tasks very time-consuming when compared to a similar number of family campsites. Additional seasonal maintenance personnel equipment and operational funds will be required to maintain these sites. Some increase in ranger staff will also be needed to check trail camps regularly.

Park Headquarters and County School Camp Area

The precise scope of this proposal is unknown at this time. It can be assumed that any substantial museum development will result in the need for an increase in skilled and seasonal maintenance personnel, as well as addition of a full-time interpretive position (Park Interpretive Specialist). Due to the size of the known artifact collections from Cuyamaca, a full-time curator will be needed to adequately care for museum collections. Increased number of walk-in visitors to the park office will require additional seasonal park aid time to provide public information.

Long-Range Planning Recommendations for Future Additions

Lucky 5 Ranch

The present owners have no interest in selling the Lucky 5 Ranch; however, if the situation should change, acquisition of this ranch would be a valuable addition to Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. An increase in the scope of resource management programs would naturally occur. Any public use facilities would significantly affect existing patterns of operations. The extent of this would be directly related to the scope of development.

Volunteerism

Current Volunteer Organizations

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park now has four functioning volunteer programs: a Mounted Assistance Unit (MAU); a docent program; a Camp Host program; and the Adopt-a-Trail program. Both the Mounted Assistance Unit and the docents are part of the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association (CRSPIA). The MAU volunteers currently provide approximately 16 person-days per week of back-country equestrian patrol during the heavy use season. The docents staff the existing small museum and interpretive center on weekends, and assist in other interpretive programs.

The Camp Host program currently uses two volunteer Camp Hosts each in the Green Valley, Paso Picacho, and Los Caballos campgrounds. Each host volunteers 20 hours per week in exchange for a campsite.

These existing programs could easily be expanded to assist in most aspects of operation of the proposed additional facilities.

Benefits of Volunteer Organizations

The existing volunteer organizations enable the state to offer programs which would not be available if state funding were required. In particular, back-country patrol and search and rescue activities would be severely curtailed if the MAU volunteers were unavailable.

Volunteers currently provide approximately two person-years of time in the Camp Host program, 16 person-days per week in the MAU program, and 6,000 person-hours yearly by the 176 active CRSPIA volunteers.

Addition of two new campgrounds and expansion of two others would require addition of four new Camp Hosts to maintain the present level of service.

Expansion of the equestrian camps to the south end and the Descanso area will require addition of an additional MAU camp and eight additional volunteer days per week.

The CRSPIA volunteer program could easily form the basis of a full-scale museum docent program. Docents currently perform duty, as well as participating in other interpretive programs.

If the volunteer program were to expand as expected, a full-time volunteer coordinator would be required. This position should be at the supervisory level. The position would coordinate docent training, schedule volunteers, and serve as the district interpretive supervisor.

Summary

The total impact, if all proposed additions to the existing development at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park were to occur, would be significant. Some items, taken individually, would have minimal impact, while others would affect current operating practices considerably.

Extension of park facilities both north and south would render the current centralized visitor services structure inadequate. It would require separation of visitor services operation into two distinct geographic sectors, north and south, or into a separation of supervision by key function, e.g., campground operations and patrol/day-use operations, each directed by a supervising ranger.

Visitation would be increased substantially by the increase in camping, day-use, parking, and museum facilities. Current demand far exceeds capacity, and this would probably not be altered significantly by the proposed additional facilities. It should be expected that these facilities would be operated at maximum capacity during the heavy use season.

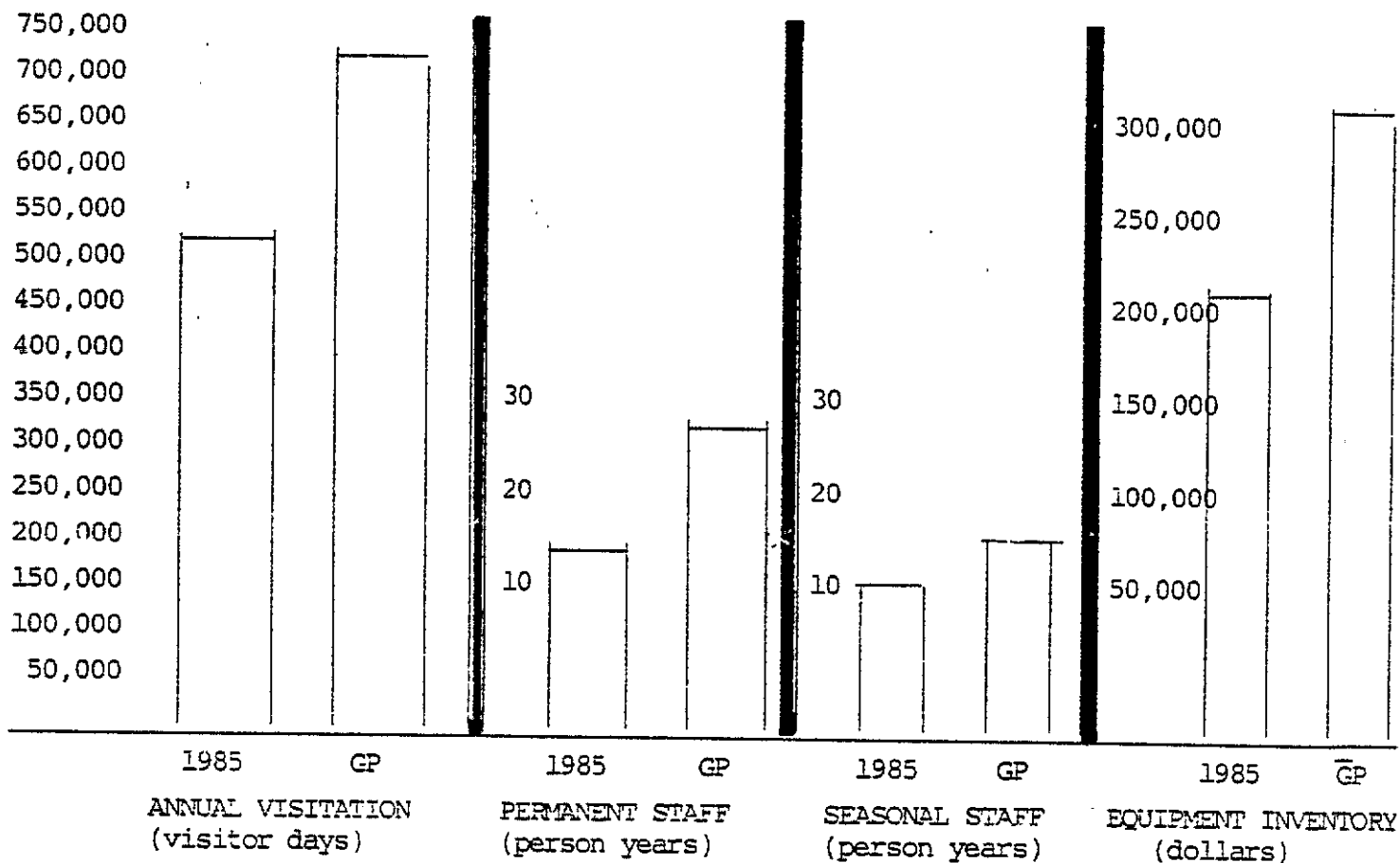
The cultural and natural resources in the park call for ongoing programs to protect these limited and unique resources. Full-time support from one resource ecologist and one archeologist would be needed to keep these programs effective.

Volunteerism would greatly benefit operation of the proposed new functions. The existing volunteer programs have the potential to expand to serve the new facilities.

It is difficult to place monetary value on volunteer contributions. Many of the programs conducted by volunteers could not be carried out if state funding were required, due to the extremely high cost. It is these "extras" that volunteers provide that are the real benefit of volunteer programs.

ESTIMATED INCREASED IN VISITATION, STAFFING AND EQUIPMENT ARE DISPLAYED GRAPHICALLY BELOW:

ESTIMATED GENERAL PLAN OPERATIONAL IMPACTS



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

The Environmental Impact Element serves as the environmental impact report required by the California Environmental Quality Act and the state EIR Guidelines.

The Environmental Impact Element incorporates by reference the other elements of the General Plan, as the Project Description and Description of the Existing Environment. It should be recognized that the level of detail of the Environmental Impact Element is similar to that of the General Plan. As site-specific development plans are proposed, they will be subject to further environmental review and on-site checks, and the appropriate environmental documents will be prepared, if necessary.

This Environmental Impact Element covers the proposals for resource management and protection, land use, and facility development.

Project Description

See the Resource, Land Use and Facilities, and Interpretive Elements.

Description of the Existing Environment

See the Resource and Land Use and Facilities Elements. The final environmental impact report on the park's Prescribed Fire Management Program is incorporated by reference.

Significant Environmental Effects

Given the nature of the site and the proposed development -- non-intensive development generally designed within the geological and biological constraints of the site, or to protect the historical or pre-historical resources -- impacts may be considered significant in the view of the quality of the site and the goal of the department to preserve and protect the resources.

1. Development of user facilities will encourage increased use. The indirect impacts are soil erosion; vegetation loss; disruption or disturbance of wildlife; and vandalism and accidental destruction of cultural resources. Soil erosion may be accelerated with construction and use of trail and camping facilities; Cuyamaca soils are generally highly erodible.
2. Direct impacts of construction are noise generation from construction equipment, fuel consumption, air pollution generation, soil erosion, soil compaction, and loss of vegetation. Noise generation and air pollution are temporary impacts.
3. Extensive public use may disturb the thirteen California Native Plant Society-listed rare or rare and endangered plant species that occur in the unit. Seventeen other similarly listed species could occur in the state park.

4. The increase of visitors would increase the fire hazard. About 90 percent of California's forest fires are human-caused, intentionally or accidentally.
5. The spotted owl, golden eagle, and Cooper's hawk, three species of special interest because of their declining breeding populations, occur in the wilderness portions of the park. Construction and use of trails and campsites, if not properly located, could disturb or displace these species.
6. The museum and parking lot may be a visual intrusion into the highway users' viewshed.
7. Development in culturally sensitive areas, such as the Descanso group equestrian camp area or the Stonewall Mine area, may disturb archeological or historical resources.

Unavoidable Environmental Effects

The more adverse effects of the proposed developments have been mitigated by land use limitations or facilities locations, or can be mitigated during the planning of site-specific development plans.

1. Removal of vegetation, construction or maintenance of roads and trails, and creation of impervious surface areas will accelerate soil erosion in those disturbed areas.
2. The indirect impacts of increased use are unavoidable, although they may be reduced. Monitoring of sensitive or critical resources by staff, and implementation of resource protection programs, may be adequate mitigation.

Mitigation Measures

1. All excavation proposals will be reviewed by the department's Cultural Resource Management Unit. Excavations or ground disturbances in culturally sensitive areas will be monitored by a department archeologist or historian.
2. New utility lines, where they could be visual intrusions, will be installed underground next to roads, if possible.
3. Facilities will be sited to reduce vegetation loss. No development proposals are located in the sensitive meadow areas.
4. The department will maintain the fire management plan, in cooperation with local fire protection agencies. The department will also maintain the prescribed burning program, to reduce excessive fuel accumulations and to manage exotic vegetation. During periods of extreme fire hazard, certain uses or activities, such as campfires, may be curtailed.
5. Trail alignments will be selected and developed with the cooperation of resource specialists, the unit staff, and user groups.

6. Site-specific soil surveys will be made before siting and development of new facilities.
7. The museum and parking lot should be sited, designed, and landscaped to limit the removal of vegetation, and to reduce the visual impact.

Alternatives

No Project Alternative

The no project alternative would leave development at its current level. Minor development would continue to maintain or upgrade existing facilities. Certain problems would continue; demand for recreational facilities would be unsatisfied, sensitive areas may be damaged when there are no designated use areas, and volunteer trails in unsuitable alignments would accelerate soil erosion.

Increased or Decreased Development

The alternatives of less or more intensive development are not ruled out with adoption of the General Plan. The General Plan is only a guideline for development. Additional or more intensive development may be possible to a minor degree, within the environmental constraints and General Plan guidelines, to meet increased recreational demands. Conversely, in preparation of site development plans, previously unknown environmental constraints may require less intensive development. The facility development proposals indicate what is estimated to be an acceptable range.

Alternate Locations

The sites of facilities as proposed in the Land Use and Facility Element are not unchangeable. Future resource information or changes in demand may dictate relocation.

Relationship Between Short-Term Uses and Maintenance or Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

The proposed long-term and short-term use is preservation and recreation. The resources will be protected, and should another use prove more beneficial to the public than preservation, the resources will be available. There is no intent to enhance potential productivity; the natural resource value may be improved through resource management programs such as native plant revegetation or watershed rehabilitation.

Irreversible Environmental Changes

No new land areas or natural resources will be irreversibly committed with implementation of the plan. Development proposals generally involve areas of previous impact or suitability for development, and the nature of the development is such that it could be removed, and sites returned to a near pre-development condition. Only the building materials and the energy consumed in construction, operation, and maintenance may be considered an irreversible commitment of resources.

Growth-Inducing Impacts

There will be a minor growth-inducing impact due to increased recreational capacity and staffing. Increased recreational capacity may influence demand for support facilities such as service stations, grocery stores, restaurants, and sports equipment outlets. However, the impact is not expected to be significant. The potential increase in use relative to the existing regional supply of visitor support facilities is relatively small. The demands created by staff increases would be typical of residential needs (schools, hospitals, etc.), and would be minor.

Effects Found Not Significant

1. The proposed development will create new impervious surface areas which will alter the rate and timing of runoff. However, in comparison to the total watershed area, the increase is not significant.
2. Air quality, noise, and traffic impacts resulting from increased use of the unit were not considered significant. There are no immediate sensitive facilities (schools, hospitals, residential areas) which would be affected.
3. Sewage and waste production, water consumption, and fuel consumption will rise proportionally to public use.
4. No development is proposed in wetland, riparian, or meadow areas, other than road or trail crossings.

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TO COMMENTS
CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK
PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH

1400 TENTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814



(916/445-0613)

James M. Doyle
California Department
Parks & Recreation
1460 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

February 5, 1986

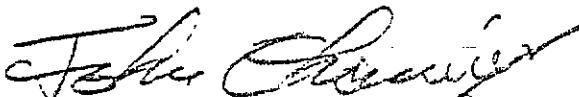
Subject: General Plan-Cuyamaca Rancho State Park -
SCH# 85072412 s

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named environmental document to selected state agencies for review. The review period is closed and none of the state agencies have comments. This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please call Glenn Stober at 916/445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process. When contacting the Clearinghouse in this matter, please use the eight digit State Clearinghouse number so that we may respond promptly.

Sincerely,


John B. Chanlian
Chief Deputy Director
Office of Planning and Research

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4344 Del Mar Avenue
San Diego, CA 92107
February 4, 1986

Mr. James M. Doyle
California Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Environmental Review Section
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Subject: Comments on Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General
Plan dated January, 1986.

Dear Mr. Doyle:

As a member of the Sierra Club Wednesday Hikers, who have been enjoying the beautiful trails of the Park for the past five years, I would like to submit some comments on the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan.

General Philosophy

As a tax-supported state facility, the Park should attempt to accommodate primarily the broader segments of the population, as opposed to smaller segments with more specialized recreational interests.

Typical of the broader population segments is a young couple with children, on a limited recreation budget, enjoying a day outing in the mountains. Also, typically, this couple has no advocacy group or association to represent its interests.

Special interest groups such as RV owners, equestrians, campers, overnight backpackers, trailbikers, etc. that individually make up a relatively small percentages of potential users, should receive secondary consideration.

Allocation of Resources

The General Plan seems inordinately biased in favor of providing camping for equestrians; this is obviously in conflict with the philosophy suggested above. A statement on page #39 reads, "The most well-defined recreation need is for horse/people camping. This need was clearly defined by the horse/people user groups themselves." Certainly, providing additional overnight camping facilities for horse owners is not the most effective use of allocated resources. Combining the recommended overnight camping acreages shown on page #45 reveals the following:

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	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed Addition</u>	<u>Total</u>
Horse Owner camping	36	43	79
Conventional camping	100	45	145

It is difficult to visualize any circumstance that would justify the 145/179 ratio between conventional camping and horse owner camping. There just are not that many horse owners in the general population.

It is further noted on page #50 that rehabilitation and expansion of the Los Caballos equestrian camp, along with the development of a new museum, constitutes the first phase of the proposed program. All other proposed improvements are evidently considered to be of lesser importance and appear in subsequent phases.

Recommendations

Available resources should first be directed at preserving what we have, followed by carefully considered expansion. Accordingly, the following priorities are suggested:

1. Forest Preservation: Protection of trees and vegetation from pests, fire, soil compaction, erosion, etc.
2. Trail and Fire Road Maintenance: Hiking trails and roads inevitably cause serious erosion if water is not diverted with water boards or equivalent. On the Harvey Moore Trail in East Mesa and on the trail connecting the Azalea Trail with the intersection of the Milk Ranch Road and the Azalea Spring fire road, erosion ditches over two feet deep have been formed. When doing maintenance on our adopted Juaguapin Trail last year, the Wednesday Hiking group could have used many more water boards than were provided.

Consideration should be given to excluding horses from more of the erosion-sensitive trails, and some trails should be taken out of service for recovery.

3. Emphasize Day Use Over Overnight Camping: Day use involves much less impact on the environment than does overnight camping--fewer roads, less acreage, fewer facilities, etc. Because of the Park's proximity to the San Diego Metropolitan area (about an hour's drive), it is quite possible to take full advantage of the splendor of the Park without overnight camping. To this end, picnic areas at Green Valley Falls and Paso Picacho could be expanded about 15% per year, and day use/trailhead parking areas along Highway 79 expanded. A day use trailhead parking area, large enough to accommodate horse trailers, should be added in Descanso because of its proximity to the freeway (Highway 8).

After recommendations 1, 2, and 3 are implemented, consideration should be given to a 10% per year expansion of overnight camping facilities, if studies show that the environmental impact can be tolerated.

It is my sincere belief that the above modifications will result in more enjoyment of the Park by more people with less environmental impact.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the General Plan.

Yours truly,


Paul G. Carlson

cc: Jack Shu, District Supt.
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

MOUNTAIN DEFENSE LEAGUE

P. O. Box 2267, San Diego, California 92112
(714) 298 3738



TO: Wm S. Briner
Director
California Dept. Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

February 7, 1986

FROM: Mountain Defense League

SUBJECT: Mountain Defense League comments on the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
Preliminary General Plan

We have carefully reviewed your staff's proposal for a Preliminary General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and their environmental analysis. We have a number of serious concerns with the proposed plan and the legality of the environmental analysis as follows:

2 [1. No documentation indicates the length of the public review period other than that it is "scheduled to end in February 1986." The notice sent on 1/8/86 stated that it was available for 45 days. Therefore, we must presume that it will end on February 22 or 24, since the 22 is a Saturday.

3 [2. While the so called Environmental Impact Element technically contains the sections required by the California Environmental Quality Act in the outline of an Environmental Impact Report, it can hardly be viewed as a legally sufficient analysis of the impacts of the proposal. Section 15121 of the California State EIR guidelines states "(a) An EIR is an informational document which will inform public agency decision-makers and the public generally of the significant environmental effect of a project, identify possible ways to minimize the significant effects, and describe reasonable alternatives to the project." This document provides little information and fails to give enough information that the general public can make a decision as to the impacts of this project. It speaks in brief, vague generalities while the plan has some specific proposals for expansion of facilities.

4 [Section 15126 (a) of the guidelines under Significant Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project states "An EIR shall identify and focus on the significant environmental effects of the proposed project. Direct and indirect significant effects of the project on the environment shall be clearly identified and described, giving due consideration to both short-term and long-term effects. The discussion should include relevant specifics of the area, the resources involved, physical changes, alterations to ecological systems, changes induced in population distribution, population concentration ..." The document fails to analyze in detail the specific impacts of proposed campsites and trails on identifiable significant wildlife, vegetation and natural resources. In fact, the document almost completely ignores impacts to wildlife, especially large, reclusive animals such as the Mountain lion.

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Section 15147 of the guidelines under Technical Detail states " the information contained in an EIR shall include summarized technical data, maps, plot plans, diagrams, and similar relevant information sufficient to permit full assessment of the significant environmental impacts by reviewing agencies and members of the public." This document fails to identify the loss of individual species of plants and wildlife and archaeological resources that will occur as the result of development and expansion of the identified campgrounds. While it is true that this project is a General Plan, it contains maps of sufficient detail that specific areas will be designated for campground expansion. The California Environmental Quality Act requires that the worst case situations be analyzed and that impacts such as would occur from the placement of specific campgrounds and trails proposed for all parts of the park must be analyzed to conform to the law. For example, sensitive species of plants are known to occur in the Lakeview campground area and these impacts are not discussed in this report.

Section 15151, Standards of Adequacy of an EIR in the guidelines states "An EIR should be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decision-makers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of the environmental consequences." Again, this document fails in this regard.

5

Section 15065, Mandatory findings of significance of the guidelines states that a lead agency shall find that a project may have a significant effect on the environment if it will "reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of major periods of California history or prehistory." Known rare and endangered plants and archaeological sites occur in some of the areas proposed for development as camp grounds. Site specific camp ground development is not likely to be able to mitigate all impacts of the proposal.

6

Section 15091 of the guidelines states (a) No public agency shall approve or carry out a project for which an EIR has been completed which identifies one or more significant environmental effects of the project unless the public agency makes one or more written findings for each of those significant effects..." While the Environmental Impact Element cannot be legally considered an EIR due to the lack of information mentioned above, it also fails to make mitigation measures for the identified indirect impacts of increased uses (Unavoidable Environmental Effects, #2, page 76). This project cannot legally be implemented with this document serving as the environmental analysis.

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7 [3. The Environmental Impact Element and General Plan portion of the document uses convoluted logic. In the last paragraph of page 71, the document states that visitation will be increased substantially by the proposal but that current demand far exceeds capacity and that this would not be altered significantly by proposed additional facilities. Yet, under the No Project Alternative, it is stated that demand for recreational facilities would be unsatisfied, sensitive areas may be damaged when there is no designated use and volunteer trails on unsuitable alignments would accelerate soil erosion. This statement implies that these impacts would not occur with the proposal. The fact is that these types of impacts will be increased to a greater level under the proposal because it will create more trails and support more people but still will not satisfy the demand for recreational facilities as stated on page 71. As visitation of the area increases, the number of those who will purposefully or accidentally violate regulations for the protection of resources will also increase. Furthermore, impacts on trails and services in campgrounds increase from excess use.

8 [The logic under the Irreversible Environmental Changes section is also under question. It states that no new land would be irreversibly committed with this plan, yet the proposal would involve areas presently undeveloped. Further, the report states that the impacts could be removed and restored. The definition of irreversibility needs to be discussed. The existing camp areas have been in place for 50 years without being removed. It is unlikely that new camps would be removed soon, after 50 years or in a lifetime. In addition, the report does not address the irreversible effects on large scale wildlife such as mountain lions, bobcats, etc. that would take place due to the increased and continued access into the backcountry portions of the park.

9 [5. The park plan itself would be growth inducing by design. It apparently intends to cause a 40% increase in use over the already high level of use. This is growth inducement by definition. The Environmental Element is completely erroneous in this part. The report also ignores the traffic impacts which will result from this plan in the Descanso and Lake Cuyamaca areas. This issue must be addressed.

10 [6. Neither the Environmental Element nor the General Plan proposal make reasonable statements about the upper limits of use that could be allowed in the park without completely degrading the resources that are intended for protection and are the values enjoyed by park visitors. The proposed plan and Environmental Element both refer to "meeting the demand" and "optimizing recreational opportunities (p.66)." As was stated on page 71, the park plan will not meet the demand, and it can never meet the demand for use in the park. The proposal will release little or no recreational pressure in San Diego County as human populations grow, yet there will be a general degradation of park resources. The Environmental Impact Element should analyze this problem.

Any true planning or environmental report on such a recreational area as Cuyamaca should include analysis of existing use levels and projected use levels and their impact on the land. In addition, it should analyze the effect of the recreational use of the area, existing and proposed, on the regional recreational environment. Without such analysis, the proposal is deficient in justifying even existing use levels. In any case, "optimizing" recreational uses will detract from the real park purpose as stated in the California Public Resources Code.

It was stated recently in the High Sierran newspaper that Cuyamaca Rancho State Park has 7 times the density of visitors as Yosemite National Park, an area known for adverse impact due to overuse. This is supportable by your own park data. We would argue that the existing levels and projected levels have and will cause park degradation. Limits on park use must be discussed and analyzed since uses have already exceeded the natural capacity of the park as evidenced by trail erosion, reduction in wildlife and loss of the ability to find a relaxing atmosphere.

7. The proposed plan places far too much emphasis on equestrian activities. Equestrian use of the park is only a very small percentage of the park use and if analyzed would be only a very small percentage of the park demand, yet it is given the major discussion in recreational needs assessment. It is notable that phase 1 of the park development would be expansion of equestrian camps. On page 39, the report states that "the most well-defined recreational need is for horse/people camping." This cannot be considered an accurate statement. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park already has 16 equestrian campsites, 100 miles of trails that can be used by horses and already had 1747 users of the Los Vaquesros group camp during the month of August alone. Horse oriented recreation is already well represented in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Increases in such use would result in an imbalance of special purpose uses within the park relative to the needs of the general populace for park use. We also have concerns about the real usefulness of the mounted assistance units who occasionally turn to near harassment tactics when following legitimate hikers.

8. The Mountain Defense League would like to make a suggestion with regard to equestrian uses. Since Cuyamaca Rancho State Park already has its share of equestrian uses, we suggest that additional equestrian uses be planned elsewhere. Prime areas for acquisition and in which equestrian uses similar to those in Cuyamaca could be introduced are the areas of French Valley and Mendenhall Valley on Palomar Mountain, in conjunction with Palomar Mountain State Park. Such an acquisition would create a large enough state park there that new equestrian uses could be developed. Furthermore, utilizing these areas as parkland would help insure that Palomar Observatory will be protected from nearby light polluting sources that could result from development of these areas for residences. The cost of the lands near the observatory could be a small price to pay in order to protect the valuable observatory and provide more land for equestrian activities. It may be possible to secure funding from CALTECH in association with the state to purchase these lands. We would also favor long term acquisition of Lucky 5 ranch where reasonable levels of expanded trails could be appropriate. We do, however, feel that Cuyamaca

already has more than its share of equestrian use.

- 13
9. The report includes discussions of marketing in goals (B.1, page 67). The report states, "Many more visitors could be served by the park if they had more knowledge of the park's attractions, and had greater access.... Marketing efforts both in the park and in metropolitan areas of Southern California will be pursued in coordination with regional and statewide marketing efforts." This borders on the absurd. The sole conceivable reason for expanding facilities in the park is to theoretically alleviate the demand for use in the park. The document even states that the proposal will not make a significant change in the demand for use of the park yet, this proposal contains a goal that would make the park better known statewide and increase the demand over what is already here, over what will be caused by the regional population growth and over what will be generated by increased facilities themselves (goal B.4). There is no logic behind the concept of advertising for more visitors when the park cannot meet current demand. Instead of marketing the park, why not use the money to survey for illegal activities, destruction of artifacts and poaching?
- 14
10. The request by the Cuyamaca Recreational and Park District for sewage disposal should not be accommodated within the park. The report on the bottom of page 47 states that "it is not the purpose of this or any state park system unit to solve sewage disposal problems of surrounding landowners," yet it implies that this request will be considered. The Cuyamaca Recreational Park District has already impacted rare and endangered species and damaged views of Cuyamaca Lake by placing campgrounds in areas where they are not appropriate, doing so in poorly designed manner. They propose too much development and are basically private entrepreneurs under the guise of a public agency. Under no circumstances should the Park consider this request.
- 15
11. On page 32 of the document it states that it shall be the objective to eliminate any recreational activities and facilities which do not directly enhance the enjoyment of the parks primary resource values. We endorse such a statement. Further, the report states with regard to competitive equestrian or distance running events and other special events not related to the enjoyment of prime park resources, that they can create certain impacts to the park and some can be attractions in and of themselves, unrelated to the parks prime resource values. That statement, the statement on page 32 and the statement of purpose in the public resources code would seem to logically show that such events shall not take place in the park. The proposal goes on to contradict everything stated earlier and indicate that such events will be considered on a case by case basis. This is wrong. Who will consider them, and will there be public input so that special interests do not again gain control over park resource managers and allow such inappropriate events. Under no circumstances should events which are contrary to the state park intent be allowed.

- 16
12. The park does not need an increase in facilities. Over time, it will be difficult to protect the resources present in the park because park use will increase. Existing use levels on major holidays and summer weekends are already beyond the carrying capacity of land which is intended to protect natural resources. We suggest that park use be limited on major holidays and weekends and that no increase in facilities be allowed. The park is an extremely valuable piece of a unique Southern California landscape. It should be protected for future generations so that they can be content knowing that there are wild places where deer, mountain lions, and bobcats and coyotes can survive in their natural state, and even be seen. Cuyamaca is such a place and can remain such a place if current and proposed destructive forces are reduced. This plan will not only destroy the habitat for large wildlife by overuse, it will destroy some of the important values of solitude and escape within a cool mountain environment; the very reasons that the park exists.

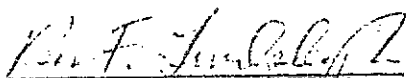
The proposed plan is a document of tremendous conflict. On one hand, there is the stated purpose of the park from the public resources code and the many fine words of the Resources Element, words that we generally support and would hope to be the guiding forces for the park. On the other hand, there are proposals for substantially increasing the recreational facilities with a projected 40% increase of visitors to utilize them, there are the proposals for competitive events that have no place in the park, the consideration of the sewage disposal system for an offsite, impactive use and the misguided emphasis on equestrian recreation. These forces are contrary to the legally stated park purpose and will work to destroy the very values of the park that make it irreplaceably important. It is foolish and irrational for Cuyamaca to be the focus of all equestrian activities in the region, just as it is ridiculous to consider expanding park use through marketing. It is right to protect the park's artifacts, have special concern for the rare and endangered species of plants, sensitive birds, large wildlife and pristine intact ecosystems, and prohibit concessioners. With regard to accommodating the demand, the state park system already has experience with state beaches where reservations 6 months to a year in advance are required for camping spaces. People who live in congested Southern California should expect to wait for visiting such important areas of solitude and natural forces as Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. It is ironic that this proposal should be brought forth at a time when recognition is being given to the nationwide problem of park deterioration due to overuse. The proposal is contrary to the trends that provide a quality of experience rather than a quantity of experience in which the maximum number of visitors are promoted and accommodated. Cuyamaca already suffers overuse, even when compared with such heavily used parks as Yosemite National Park (see High Sierran).

Finally, the document, the General Plan Report and especially the Environmental Impact Element which is passed off as an EIR are legally invalid. The State Park system would do well to follow State Law in the public resources code and the California Environmental Quality Act. Such laws were designed to protect the interests of the people and especially the resources. If Cuyamaca is destroyed by overuse, there will be no other place to find such an inspiring habitat.

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The Mountain Defense League will continue to monitor this proposal and will be prepared to take legal recourse to correct a situation that is currently not in accordance with State Law.

MOUNTAIN DEFENSE LEAGUE



Byron F. Lindsley Jr.
Director Mountain Defense League

MOUNTAIN DEFENSE LEAGUE



P.O. Box 2267, San Diego, CA 92112
(619) 298-3738

February 14, 1986

William S. Briner, Director
California Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

From: Mountain Defense League

Subject: Comments on the Cultural Resource section of the Cuyamaca
General Plan Environmental Impact Report

Dear Mr. Briner:

The Mountain Defense League takes this opportunity to submit a separate set of comments regarding the Cultural Resource section in the Preliminary General Plan and EIR for the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Our other comments were dated February 7, 1986.

We have problems with both documents and lack confidence that they will provide effective management guidelines or meaningful protection for the many archaeological sites and resources in the Park boundaries. This is, we think, especially important in light of recent publicity and allegations regarding clandestine digging and pot hunting in the Park by someone who enjoyed the confidence of the Park's guardians. We believe that to "market the park" to entice more visitors will result in increased amounts of these activities because the Park cannot control the visitors now or prevent vandalism to the sites. This was made public in the news accounts of the digging. Even the vaunted Mounted Assistance Units were ineffectual in the matter.

The problem did not arise overnight however. For over 30 years the school camp has conducted a program (within their overall program of environmental education and interaction) of formalized cultural site exploitation known as "Indian Lore". The program features hiking trips to sites where surface collections have been allowed or even encouraged in defiance of State Park Regulations, policy and state law. The cumulative impacts of these activities is beyond estimation.

Taken together, these events suggest that the recent pot hunting case is not an aberration but rather may be an endemic problem in the Park.

We note that 250 cultural resource sites have been registered in the Park's 24,560 acres. This gives a ratio of about one site for every 100 acres. Given the immense food resource base, the number of sites seems rather low.

The Park contains steatite, a highly valuable commodity to the native Americans. We believe that the Park has not yet been fully surveyed and inventoried. More sites as yet undisclosed probably exist. The ratio also suggests that most of the sites known probably lie in the accessible valleys. If so, they are in a high risk zone and subject to surface collecting in most places and digging in less obvious areas.

In our previous letter (Feb. 7) we called attention to the deficiencies relative to CEQA in the preliminary Plan EIR. The same problems extend to the Cultural Resource section as well but with greater import.

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Since the Plan presents specific development plans with related maps a definite project exists by CEQA definition. The Park also has site maps showing cultural resource site locations. The maps should be compared to determine what direct and indirect impacts are posed by the expansion. These impacts must be described and discussed in the EIR. CEQA specifies that sites on any public or private project must be tested to determine what unique scientific contributions they can make to the study of the prehistoric record. There is no indication that this has been done. Indeed, it may not be necessary due to the fact that the Park has upheld the position that all of its resources are unique and shall be preserved (one of the reasons the Park was created). Since all of the sites are unique they enjoy the protection of the Public Resources Code which requires that they must be preserved in all circumstances with a substantial salvage effort only as a last resort. We believe that this issue should be fully discussed in the EIR.

Overall, the Cultural Resources treatment is very soft; impacts are ill defined and mitigation measures are dreamlike in quality. The issue of cumulative impacts is a glaring one and is not mentioned. Not only will expansion affect resources directly, the increased numbers of visitors will adversely impact the very things that the Park was charged with protecting.

19

As it stands today, all major archaeological sites in the Park seem to be linked in a chain of trails. All are open to hikers and equestrians. Some trails are old and others look as if they were made yesterday. Regardless, these easy access routes provide an opportunity for degradation of the sites. The EIR should discuss this and all current impacts under the present situation. Lack of adequate manpower to police the sites on a regular basis is an issue within issues. With many of the sites in jeopardy now what will happen when the doors are indeed thrown open?

The Mountain Defense League does not detect a strong commitment by the Park Administrator to provide protection for the Park's Cultural Resources. We fear that the half hearted Plan and EIR that has been distributed for this review period will be the last word and become the sole guiding statement for Park management. We fear that under the rubric of Park management new roads and trails will be slashed, new buildings erected by right and that campgrounds will be expanded or new ones created. All without any further review. Who will know the difference? Who will be there to call attention to irregularities or impacts?

Perhaps we could gather confidence in the proposed Plan if, before any building or trail cutting occurs, a Supplemental EIR reviewing each intended action could be circulated for public review and comment, according to CEQA. To do otherwise is to circumvent CEQA which is binding upon all of us.

In closing, The Mountain Defense League rejects the Proposed Plan and EIR for the Park's development and wholly inadequate. We propose that a full EIR be prepared and distributed and that all work require preparation of Supplemental Reports to be reviewed for the 45 day period.


Byron F. Lindsley, Jr.

Director, Mountain Defense League

Willis H. Fletcher Co.

530 BROADWAY, SUITE 1202
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101
239 0481

February 13, 1986

Mr. James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Board
Department of Parks and Recreation
Post Office Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

I have perused the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Preliminary General Plan and feel that an excellent job has been done in this review.

However, I take exception to the recommended development phases. I note that you have placed under Phase 3, which I am sure would be in the distant future, the development of the Lake Cuyamaca Camp.

Having been identified for the last twenty-five years with the Lake Cuyamaca Recreation and Park District, as Chairman of the Board of Directors seven or eight years, I know the need for this particular campground.

We have been turning away during at least six months of the year, in the summer season, from 25 to 30 requests a week from tent campers who have actually passed through the area looking for a campsite.

The Cuyamaca Lake Campground has been discussed with your local personnel over the past several years, and we have been given the impression, right or wrong, that the development of the campground, after the completion and approval of the Master Plan, would be imminent.

I feel that classifying it in Phase 3 will be most discouraging to the public, including the residents in the area, and could be detrimental to any public fund raising campaign, similar to that which was done in Anza State Park, you would see fit to have for the construction of a museum in the Park.

Our Board of the Lake Cuyamaca Recreation and Park District has several times stated that we would be more than willing, if you would grant us a long term lease, to do the job ourselves if it is not going to be done by the Department of Parks and Recreation in the very near future.

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Mr. James M. Doyle

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Page 2

I recently resigned as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lake Cuyamaca Recreation and Park District, however I am still a Board member, and the thoughts I have expressed here are my personal thoughts and not necessarily those of our Board.

I have every reason to believe, however, that if our next board meeting were to be prior to the 18th of February, they would voice the same sentiments which I am voicing here.

I respectfully request that you give serious consideration to moving the development of the Lake Cuyamaca Camp up to Phase 1, rather than where you have placed it now, under Phase 3.

Thank you for the opportunity of expressing my feelings in this matter and, once again, I am so pleased that after all these many years we are getting a General Plan in order that Cuyamaca State Park may be eligible for State funds which we all have seen fit to vote in favor of over these past many years.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIS H. FLETCHER

WHF:mt

cc: Mr. William S. Briner, Executive Secretary, Dept. of Parks & Recreation
California State Park & Recreation Commission
Post Office Box 2390, Sacramento, California 95811



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Department of Planning & Land Use

Please send reply to office checked:

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(619) 565-3072

☐ WALTER C. LADWIG, DIRECTOR
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B
San Diego, CA 92123-1666
(619) 565-3001

☐ 334 Via Vera Cruz
San Marcos, CA 92069-2638
(619) 741-4236

February 11, 1986

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

COMMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN FOR CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK (JANUARY, 1986)

The County appreciates the opportunity to review the Preliminary General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. We would like to submit comments on the following issues.

Legal Requirements

21 If the total impacts of the proposals contained in the preliminary general plan are significant as stated in the Summary (pg. 71), CEQA requires an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which evaluates and defines any environmental impacts of the proposals; identifies any significant impacts that cannot be avoided; discloses mitigation measures to minimize significant impacts, and proposes alternatives capable of eliminating any significant impacts. Section 15126(a) of CEQA requires that both direct and indirect significant impacts of the proposals in the general plan on the environment be considered in the EIR. Furthermore, Section 5002.2 of the State Public Resources Code specifically requires this general plan to evaluate and define any environmental impacts. In summary, the preliminary general plan recognizes the significance of the impacts of the proposals and due to this recognition of significant impacts, the EIR should adequately address the impacts as required by CEQA and the State Codes. The EIR for the preliminary general plan does not adequately address the impacts as required.

22 In regards to the existing environmental impact discussion contained in the preliminary general plan, the Environmental Impact Element which serves as the EIR for the plan is deficient in the required contents of an EIR as defined by CEQA. The EIR lacks a table of content or index in assisting the reader in finding the analysis of different subjects and issues required by Section 15122 of CEQA. Using unmet demand for visitor use appears to be the primary reason for developments proposed by the general plan. This is inconsistent with Section 15131(c) of CEQA which states that the EIR should focus on physical

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23 impacts/changes and that social effects should not be treated as significant effects on the environment. If, as the general plan implies, the accommodation of visitor use takes precedence over environmental impacts, Section 15093 of CEQA requires a statement of overriding considerations. The environmental impact element which serves as the EIR for the general plan lacks this statement.

Contents of the EIR

24 Contrary to the purpose of a state park as defined in Section 5019.53 of the State Public Resources Code, the EIR for the General Plan fails to evaluate and define any direct or indirect environmental impacts from the proposed development in the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park to:

- Native American cultural sites;
- All thirteen identified and seventeen probable "rare" and "rare and endangered" plants; and
- The breeding populations of spotted owls, golden eagles, and Cooper's hawk.

25 Any development should be consistent with the perpetuation of the outstanding natural, scenic and cultural values, and indigenous fauna and flora which make Cuyamaca Rancho State Park an unique regional resource. For instance, competitive equestrian and running events are not consistent with the purpose of a State Park and threaten values of this park. Additionally, the procedures in selecting and developing equestrian trail alignments in conjunction with "the considerable progress in adding new trails" (pg. 43) should be specified in the mitigation measures of the EIR. The current environmental impact element only states that these procedures will be selected and developed (pg. 78).

26 In general, the specific proposals of the general plan which threaten the purpose of Cuyamaca Rancho as a state park is the development of facilities to accommodate more visitor use on the finite space of the park. The plan accurately states that the state park is a classic case of balancing the need to preserve valuable natural/cultural resources and the problem caused by over-use. In considering this condition, it is paramount that any environmental impact be minimized. Maximizing resource enjoyment or management should be secondary to resource protection. As the general plan in the goals of the plan implementation states, visitor use should be limited to the extent that impacts to the resources be mitigated adequately. The impacts are not adequately mitigated with the proposed use levels.

Contents of the General Plan


27 The general plan contains statements that are contradictory. For instance, in light of the findings in the general plan (pg. 71) that demand for park use exceeds capacity, proposals such as pursuing "marketing efforts" to promote Cuyamaca Rancho State Park should not even be considered. The plan also states (pg. 67) that equestrian use have caused some concerns for visitor safety and unsightly, undesirable and unhealthy horse waste on hiking trails. Expanding existing equestrian camps or building new camps will cause greater equestrian use and may cause more safety and health concerns. Furthermore, the plan states that only necessary equestrian trail use will be recommended on steep slopes of the park (pg. 44). This recommendation is not consistent with the plan finding that the soils of the park are extremely susceptible to disturbance and dislocation. New road and trail crossing in wetland, riparian or meadow area (pg. 78) should not be considered as no development as the plan suggests in the environmental impact element. New roads and trail crossings directly impact wetland biological resources during construction and may indirectly impact resources with subsequent visitor use.

28

Conclusion

In conclusion, a comprehensive EIR should be prepared for the general plan of the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park which clearly describes the proposed development and analyzes the direct and indirect impacts and which assures that all natural/cultural resources of this park be preserved. To include disclaimers such as the inability of the general plan to include "meticulous, detailed information" concerning development and the resultant impacts is not adequate in assessing the environmental impacts of the plan as required by CEQA and the State Public Resources Code.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact John Kovacs at (619) 565-3039.


WALTER C. LADWIG, Director
Department of Planning and Land Use

WCL:JK:tf

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

915 Capitol Mall, Room 288
Sacramento, California 95814

(916) 322-7791

January 13, 1986

James M. Doyle
California Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: General Plan-Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
SCH# 85072412.

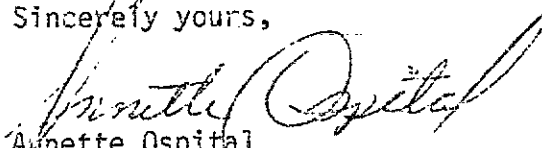
I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the Archaeological and Historical Resources section of the above named application.

In reviewing your monitoring and mitigation program nowhere did I see that any provisions had been incorporated to contact local Native Americans as to not interfere with the free expression or exercise of Native American religion as provided in the United States Constitution and the California Constitution.

29 It is appropriate that a qualified archaeologist should be consulted and advise on a monitoring and mitigation program. However, it would be requested that the local Native American community be contacted and be consulted as to their input for establishing a plan for avoiding adverse impacts to Native American cultural resources.

If you are in need of local Native Americans to contact, please let me know. Also, I would like to be advised as to the resolution of this matter.

Sincerely yours,


Annette Ospital
Special Assistant

AO:jg

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2104 Whinchat Street
San Diego, CA. 92123

Feb 2, 1986

James E. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA. 95811

Sir:

30 [Enclosed are the additions, deletions and corrections we, as interested Scouters, would like to see used in the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan. We have appeared at several hearings in support of these changes and will not belabor the point by submitting the same information in this letter.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

James E. Clark
James E. Clark, Member-at-large, Northern District
San Diego County Boy Scouts of America

Theresa M. Clark

Theresa M. Clark, Member-at-large, Northern District
San Diego County Boy Scouts of America

*cc. Ron Brundage, Ron Lindsford, Jack I. Rye
Enclosures (2) (6)*

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Existing wording

The City-County school camp and the Boy Scout camp have contributed in the past to the damage of archeological resources in the park. The Boy Scout camp is located very near a prehistoric resource that has suffered damage from camp activities. The City-County school camp used to conduct hikes to significant cultural sites, where surface collecting took place. Department management was aware of these activities in previous years, but, for various reasons, did not take action to stop them from occurring.

Proposed wording

The City-County school camp and the Boy Scout camp may have inadvertently contributed in the past to the damage of archeological resources in the park. The Boy Scout camp is located very near a prehistoric resource that has suffered damage from camp activities. The location of this and other sites were relatively unknown until very recently and resource management procedures have changed dramatically in recent years. The City-County school camp used to conduct hikes to significant cultural sites, where surface collecting took place. Department management was aware of these activities in previous years, but, for various reasons, did not take action to stop them from occurring.

Existing Wording

The two youth camps have, in the past, created problems of resource degradation. In addition, some of the facilities associated with the camps are located in areas where resource damage can easily occur.

Policy:

It shall be the objective of the department to eliminate any recreational activities and facilities from the park which do not directly enhance the enjoyment of the park's primary resource values.

The department encourages park use by youth groups for nature study and primitive outdoor recreation. At this time, it is the intention of the Department to renew the leases of the school camp and the Boy Scout camp on their next expiration. In the interim, the Department shall prepare a report which evaluates the activities and facilities of both youth camps, and which makes recommendations for keeping those facilities and activities in line with departmental objectives.

Proposed wording

The horse camps, the volume of visitors during peak periods, as well as the two youth camps have, in the past created problems of resource degradation. In addition, some of the facilities associated with the camps are located in areas where resource damage can easily occur.

Policy:

It shall be the objective of the department to mitigate, and eliminate if necessary, any recreational activities and facilities from the park which do not directly enhance the enjoyment of the park's primary resource values.

The department encourages park use by youth groups for nature study and outdoor recreation. Recognizing the value of outdoor education and the goals and purposes of these two long-term leases, it is the intention of the Department to renew the leases of the school camp and the Boy Scout camp. The Department shall prepare a report which evaluates the activities and facilities of both youth camps and which makes recommendations for keeping those facilities and activities in line with departmental objectives while taking into consideration the goals of a long-term camping situation and making allowances for activities which may not be ideal by Park standards, but which are suitable if properly situated and supervised.

Page 49

Existing wording

Boy Scout Camp

The plan recommends that lease agreements with the Boy Scout Camp be revised and continued only within the objectives of the State Park System, and within State Park System rules and regulations. See the Operations Element, page 65, for proposed improvements in the lease agreements.

Proposed wording

Boy Scout Camp

The plan recommends that lease agreements with the Boy Scout Camp be revised and continued within the objectives of the State Park System. See the Operations Element, page 65 for proposed improvements in the lease agreements.

Existing wording

7. The leases for the youth camps will be up for renewal in the near future. The present leases do not provide guidelines for the youth camp programs, or set limits on capacities or facilities. The department will work with the Boy Scouts of America and the San Diego County Department of Education to include these issues in future lease agreements. Management plans for these specific areas which ensure resource protection and compatibility with state park goals shall be included if and when the leases are renewed.
-

Proposed wording

7. The leases for the youth camps will be up for renewal in the near future. The present leases do not provide guidelines for the youth camp programs, or set limits on capacities or facilities. The department will work with the Boy Scouts and the San Diego County Department of Education to include these issues in future lease agreements. Management plans for these specific areas which ensure resource protection and compatibility with state park goals shall be included when the leases are renewed. Consideration of activities for compatibility will be tempered with the feasibility of viable alternatives to maintain the integrity of both programs in their goals toward outdoor education. Any necessary deleting of activities considered by the programs to be vital shall be phased out over an extended period of time to allow for their replacement without extensive damage to these valuable programs.

1129 Elizabeth St.
Barstow, CA 92311
January 12, 1986

James Doyle
Environmental Review Section
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle,

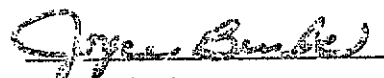
Thank you for sending me a copy of the General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. I feel it is long overdue since this park serves the second largest urban area in California and needs much more financial support than it is currently receiving.

I have recently received and commented upon the Draft Land and Resource Management Plan of the Cleveland National Forest and found little mention in that document of coordination between the Forest Service and Department of Parks and Recreation. I am particularly interested in the Sill Hill roadless area which lies directly to the west of West Mesa State Wilderness. The two should be both managed as one large wilderness and a trail network developed between them. Please consider this in your development of a trail system. Care should be taken to avoid the Cuyamaca cypress groves, but it would be nice to have two trails to Cuyamaca Peak.

Your ideas for a major new museum are quite exciting. Interpretative services in the Peninsular Range are quite rare and the state can provide a great service to the public by providing this museum and the necessary related staff. Funding for the adjacent public lands has been greatly restricted in recent years and I am hopeful that the state can fill in some of the gaps with its own staff and volunteers.

Please keep me informed of any further developments in the planning process.

Sincerely,


Joyce Burk

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JAN 16

KPI

6-314

DESCANSO PLANNING GROUP

21 January 1986

James M. Doyle
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Environmental Review Section
PO Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The Descanso Planning Group supports, in concept, the Cuyamaca State Park General Plan Preliminary Report in its proposal for a camp within the Descanso community to accommodate 15 to 25 horses and people.

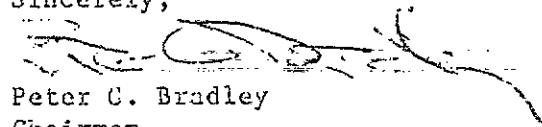
The Group also appreciates the report's recommendation that 3.97 acres of land be released from the Park to the Mountain Empire Unified School District and the Descanso Community Water District.

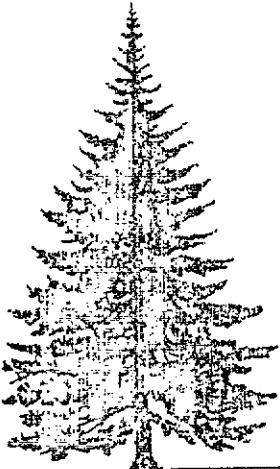
3/

We look forward to receiving the Environmental Impact Report relative to the General Plan Report and may have additional comments forthcoming.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan.

Sincerely,


Peter C. Bradley
Chairman



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JAN 23 1986

RPD

POST OFFICE BOX 38, DESCANSO, CALIFORNIA 92016

6-435

COMMENTS RECEIVED AFTER END OF
PUBLIC REVIEW

Feb. 24, 1986
509 Carvalos Dr.,
Chula Vista, Calif. 92010

Mr. James M. Doyle
California Department of Parks & Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Regarding the preliminary General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, your plan seems very comprehensive.

I do want to comment on what has seemed in the past to be the most offensive to many of the local people.

First: The practice of spending so much of the park budget on acquisition instead of providing enough campsites for the public need.

Second: The shortage of parking facilities in the Cuyamaca is a glaring example. In the one main road that runs north and south (highway 79), this narrow, curving roadway is almost a complete "no parking" lane. Granted that it is narrow and has many sharp curves, it is still a dedicated 80' right-of way given for the use of the people in the mountain area for through access and I can guarantee that the people of Julian who have been there mostly longer than the park, will object strongly to any "check stations" on this road. Also there are many places where parking could be put in where the rangers could still "control" park visitors, as seems to be their stated objection.

Third: In my opinion, the acquisition of the Lucky Five would detract from the character of the Cuyamaca. It is better to leave the two big parks separate (the de Anza and the Cuyamaca) and I am no relation ~~or~~ have ~~have~~ connection with that family in any way. I cannot see the sense of still wanting to get more area off the tax rolls and the park personnel still saying "we simply don't have the money or persons to add facilities for the people and we simply cannot police the whole big areas."

The horse camps seem o.k., especially those in the south country where they are useable in the winter and the S.E.A.L. camp an excellent location for all year. The Boy Scout camp is a must and should not be made any smaller. It is a very important "learning facility for youths".

Sincerely,

Mary H. Ellardson

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MAR 3 - 1986

RPD

6-1195

2255 Sloane Canyon Road
El Cajon, CA 92021
15 February 1986

State of California - The Resources Agency
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

RE: REVIEW OF THE PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN FOR CUYAMACA
RANCHO STATE PARK

Dear Sirs:

This letter is to provide my comments and input concerning the preliminary General Plan for Cuyama Rancho State Park. There are many excellent features contained in this Plan, but there is one primary flaw which detracts seriously from its being acceptable in its present form.

As noted on p. 18, the purpose of state parks is preservation of natural and cultural resources; and that these parks shall be managed to restore, protect, and maintain these resources. The Declaration of Purpose on p. 19 directs resource management of the park to be carried out with the purpose of perpetuation of these resources into the future, with provision of recreation facilities to be consistent with (i.e., secondary or subsidiary to) this goal of resource perpetuation. In fact this Declaration of Purpose explicitly includes the directive to regulate human use, if this is necessary.

The primary flaw of the preliminary General Plan is that the mandated management guiding philosophy and goals are not being followed. The sad fact is that our ecologically disruptive, overgrown Southern California civilization is already exceeding the carrying capacity of its natural environment. To meet the longterm objectives and goals mandated for the management of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, it is already necessary to closely regulate human use in the Park. It should come as no surprise that demand for facilities sometimes exceeds supply -- but this does not mean that the supply should be increased. It means only that regulation of human use of the existing facilities will be increasingly important in the future.

The detailed Resource Management Policies outlined in the Resource Element would work well to guide future preservation of the park's natural resources, except for the apparently accepted premise that human use will be substantially increased. A serious

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weakness of this element is the Allowable Use Intensity, pages 33-35. The categorization and resultant Map 2 is non-quantitative, and therefore, of little planning and management value as far as regulating or planning for actual intensity of human use on the ground. This plan should include quantitative data on the current intensity of human use in each of these five categories and areas of the park, with data and analyses that describe the impacts on the park's natural resources caused by these existing use levels. Then reasonable evaluation of the future impacts of proposed increases or decreases in human use could be made for each category, and alternative plans could be intelligently compared. The Environmental Impact Element does list several significant Environmental Effects (pp. 75-76) that are associated with human use, but without the development of quantitative measures described above, it is impossible to apprehend just how significant these effects would be if the Plan were to adopted.

In non-quantitative terms, ^{speaking} as a professional biologist working in the area of natural resources preservation, and as a frequent Park user, the impacts of human use already act to continually degrade and diminish the natural resource values of the Park. Therefore tighter regulation than present is really what should be featured as an alternative in any Plan that aspires to meet the stated goals and purposes of the Park, which in fact means lower intensity of human uses. Building more facilities to serve human uses is inappropriate and incompatible with resource preservation.

On page 39, it is stated that "the park does not have enough campgrounds to accomodate the people who desire to stay overnight." It is important to note that the Park does not have, nor should it assume for itself, the responsibility of providing a supply of accomodations big enough to meet the demand.

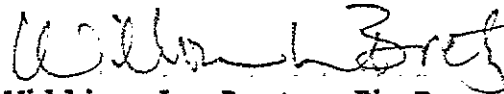
The equestrian user group is a special interest user category that receives special attention in this Plan. On page 39 it is noted that "there are few other individual equestrian camps in the mountain areas of San Diego County," as if this is a justification for providing more than already exist in the Park. It seems a more reasonable and balanced perspective to recognize that the Park already provides for this special interest more than does any other sector of society, and if a bigger supply of opportunities is demanded than it should be met by public or private enterprise actions outside the Park. It is not compatible with the Park's purpose and goals to expand this category of human use, especially without any sort of quantitative documentation and analysis of the possible impacts.

The Interpretive Element is a strong portion of this Plan. However, it should also include strong development of the theme of the ecologically disruptive cumulative impacts of our recent past and contemporary society. Visitors should have interpreted for them the urgent need to regulate, control, and restrict human uses in order to preserve the natural resources of the Park for future generations -- explanations as to why there are a finite number of campsites that is smaller than demand, and why more trails and parking spaces will never be added, etc.

The No Project Alternative (p. 77) is the only acceptable alternative offered in this preliminary General Plan, because the other presented options are based on a presumption of catering to increased demands for human use by providing more facilities to service increased human use. It is past time for us to begin managing these resources as if they are finite, fragile and irreplaceable, as they truly are. Humans can learn this, and can learn to get in line for their turn to share in a scarce resource, and that is the direction planning for the Park should go.

I respectfully must object that this version of a General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park does not meet CEQA requirements, and must include additional details concerning existing human intensity of use on the ground of the Park, and the specific impacts of these intensities on important Park resources, if it is going to meet them.

Sincerely yours,



William L. Bretz, Ph.D.

cc: Wm. S. Briner
State Parks & Recreation Commission
Jack Shu

RECEIVED
FEB 19 1986

16 FEB. 1986
BARLING
P.O. BOX 20543
EL CAJON CA 92021

To: JAMES DOYLE
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW SECTION
DEPT. OF PARKS + RECREATION
P.O. BOX 2390
SACRAMENTO CA 95811

Dear Sir -

I find many faults within the proposed Preliminary General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, primarily and especially in that it fails, as per its prime directive, to perpetuate natural, scenic landscape & wilderness values (See attached page: Declaration of Purpose & Classification of State parks, whereon I've underlined the seemingly CLEAR mandate of the Dept. of Parks & Recreation. Unfortunately, there seems to be confusion as to the deadline for comments on the document. Since the cover letter for the General Plan was dated 8 JAN. and specified 45 days to comment, I've been under the impression that ~~that~~^{deadline} would be 22 FEB. which is a Saturday. But a couple of sources have just told me the deadline will be this Tuesday (18 FEB.) so I'm now confused. I am sending this letter in case the earlier deadline prevails in order to be on the record in opposition to the Preliminary Plan as is. I intend to submit further comment on my original timeline, but do not have time now to expand here. IF the later date is the proper deadline, I wish to have my subsequent comments received officially NOT JUST THIS "first" notice,

The plan focuses far more on how the PARK can be of physical use to the public, rather than on the resources it has been created to protect: satisfying users now, rather than guaranteeing perpetuation of

6-934

p. 2 BARLING
16 FEB. 1986

the natural resources for future enjoyment generations from now. HOW will these resources be protected by the increased use proposed in the Preliminary General Plan? How can this document purport to also serve as its own EIR with so little data/documentation?

I urge the Commission of Parks + Recreation to send back this preliminary Plan to be reworked into a document more in tune with the purpose of Cuyamaca State Park: to perpetuate the natural scenic landscape + wilderness of the Cuyamaca and Laguna Mountains, AND the naturally functioning ecosystems therein, and historic/cultural features of early human habitation.

Sincerely,

Lesley A. Barling

(Ms.) LESLEY BARLING

P.O. B. 20543

EL CAJON

CA 92021

Classification

The unit was classified as a state park by the state Park and Recreation Commission on June 21, 1962. The Public Resources Code, Section 5019.53, defines a state park as follows:

"State parks consist of relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, oftentimes also containing significant historical, archeological, ecological, geological, or other such values. The purpose of state parks shall be to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values, indigenous aquatic and terrestrial fauna and flora, and the most significant examples of the...ecological regions of California....

→ "Each state park shall be managed as a composite whole in order to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes to the extent compatible with the primary purpose for which the park was established.

→ "Improvements undertaken within state parks shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values for present and future generations. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for such recreational activities including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, and horseback riding, so long as such improvements involve no major modification of lands, forests, or waters.

→ Improvements which do not directly enhance the public's enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological values of the resource, which are attractions in themselves, or which are otherwise available to the public within a reasonable distance outside the park, shall not be undertaken within state parks."

Declaration of Purpose

The Declaration of Purpose defines the purpose of the unit and the broadest goals of resource management:

→ The purpose of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is to perpetuate for the enjoyment, inspiration, and enlightenment of the people: the natural scenic landscape and wilderness values of the Cuyamaca and western Laguna Mountains, the naturally functioning ecosystems therein, and the history and significant cultural features of early human occupation, settlement, and activity.

→ The department shall prescribe and execute a program of resource management, based on current and continuing scientific research, which is designed to perpetuate the park's declared values. The department shall provide recreational facilities that make available these values in a manner that is consistent with their perpetuation. Research, management planning, and execution shall take into account, and if necessary regulate, the human uses for which the park is intended.

↑ p. 18

↓ p. 19

20 February 1986
L. A. Barling
P.O.Box 20543
El Cajon CA 92021

Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks & Recreation
State of California Resources Agency
P.O.Box 2390
Sacramento CA 95811

Dear Mr. James Doyle:

This letter conveys my comments on the Preliminary General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, whether it's timely or not. The cover letter with the document did not specify where or to whom or by when to send comments. The letter, dated 8 JAN 1986, announced a 45-day comment period ending "in February 1986". By counting 8 JAN as day-1, this period would end Saturday 22 FEB, which would thereby put the comment-period deadline at the next business day, 24 FEB 1986. Last Friday, however, I learned from other sources that the deadline was regarded as last Tuesday, 18 FEB, a week earlier than I had anticipated. When I called Cuyamaca Rancho State Park on Monday 17 FEB to confirm the deadline, I was told there was NONE, and to just send comments to the Park Supervisor in Descanso CA. Being confused by the lack of clear details, I sent a last-minute letter in opposition to the Preliminary Plan, in case the earlier deadline was correct. Hoping that the calculated (later) deadline is the correct one, I am sending my more detailed comments herein, hoping that this letter will be officially received and supplant (if not supplement) my first letter (copy attached).

My basic objection with the proposed plan is that it focuses on Park users and how to accomodate them more than it seems to focus on how to protect and perpetuate Park resources (natural, ecological, ethno-cultural, scenic etc.). There are more specific problems with the document.

While the proposed Plan acknowledges certain difficulties with its current lay-out of use under its relatively "centralized" system of management (lack of adequate patrolling, of personnel, of widely publicized Park rules, of adequate maintenance, etc.), it proposes NOT to improve this current "centralized" system, but to bifurcate it into two zones of management (North being the current set-up, and South being created by the new addition of a Descanso horse-camp and maintenance center). This would increase the territory needing to be actively administered/patrolled/maintained, further outstripping the management resources already described as inadequate. It would not only increase the manpower needs above and beyond that which already exists, but it de novo establishes the need to provide new extra facilities (increased costs & maintenance) not just for park users but for park managers as well. IF facilities were to be added to the Park system, it might be most sensible, with lesser impacts all round, at least to add them onto areas where existing services, personnel, and patrols etc. are already structured; to upgrade/renovate (with minor expansion) such facilities.

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FEB 24 1986

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While users will always exceed the park resource, it seems obvious that uses with the least impacts would be most compatible with perpetuation of resources, and that foot traffic would have less impact in any area than horse traffic. Yet there's NO mention of studies assessing impacts of horse-travelers: erosion problems on trails/slopes; pollution problems in surface and spring water-supplies; damage to habitat/organisms by direct (foraging, crushing) or indirect (due to increased erosion for example: washed out by run-off or buried by deposits) causes; increased "sphere of influence" into the parklands due to animals' abilities to cover greater distance with more supplies for longer duration than people on foot. In spite of the apparent lack of such considerations it seems that a disproportionately large increase of facilities for equestrians is being planned. I'd rather see emphasis given instead to increasing access for low-impact users, such as remote trail camps for hikers.

Even so, I feel that the level of increased access MUST be limited commensurate with the capacity of the resources to withstand use (rather than with the increase in demand for recreation). There's a basic premise being overlooked: there is a conflict between trying to protect/preserve something, and opening it up for use. In terms of the resources under protection of the Park, increasing access is almost diametrically opposed to their perpetuation. The rationale for the expansion of access delineated in the General Plan is to accomodate the perceived increased demand for recreation, therefore it is ridiculous to find the Plan also proposing a need to "MARKET" the Park (A waste of time, effort, personnel and especially funds!!).

It is difficult to see how this Plan can be used to plan protection of the Park's resources. There is no mapping of botanicals, of rare/endangered/threatened species, of wildlife (especially large mammals or birds, who forage over large established territories); and apparently there is only partial knowledge of loci and content of archeological resources. In recent weeks, a scandal has arisen locally which casts doubts as to the Park's ability to protect its archeological resources. One of the park's own long-time employees was arrested for illegal possession of antiquities and robbing of burial sites, many items allegedly purloined from the Park itself. The damage this one individual (under the Park's mantle) may have caused is still being tallied, but there is no hint in the General Plan of concerns of this nature, of the impact on the safety of such resources when access is increased; no detailed plans divulged to mitigate such problems.

I have seen more than one Environmental document in my time, but none so sketchy, minimal and insufficient as this. It-hamstrings public review of environmental issues by being titled merely "General Plan", by incorporating the bulk of environmental information by reference to other studies/inventories (Which must be obtained separately, consuming more time & effort), and by the summary treatment of Environmental Effects & Mitigations, compressed into only five page-faces. There is no clear delineation of Significant/Unmitigable effects versus Significant/Mitigable; apparently the attempted implication is that all effects are mitigable, which is a bit cursory.

The list of Significant Effects suffers from vagueness (wherein "may" and "could" imply that significant impacts are not certain) and compression (where #1 on the list compresses FOUR major concerns into a single list entry). The list itself highlights need for intense environmental scrutiny, lacking in the document, by pointing out the erodible nature of Park soils and the lack of inventory of rare/endangered/threatened plants. There is no consideration of impacts of the proposed plans upon existing communities (such as traffic, wear on roads/impacts on residents, in Descanso for example).

The attempt is to have this document govern future development of the Park, with the actual on-site alterations subject to vague future environmental review & documentation; this is inexcusable! The Plan lacks any site-specific details, yet the on-site development will generate significant environmental impacts which may or may not be mitigable. Whatever the State Parks and Recreation Commission does about the General Plan/EIR, it should not allow this vagueness; it should incorporate a demand for exhaustive environmental study (full official site-specific EIRs and review with public inputs) of each future site-specific alteration of the Park. ONLY when the details of development are known can environmental impacts be clear, and proper mitigations (if possible) be defined and required. To leave all these determinations to the future in vague terms, while an official OK is granted beforehand to an inadequate environmental document, would be unacceptable.

I urge the State Parks and Recreation Commission to judge this Preliminary General Plan unacceptable, and to return it to the lead agency to be reworked into a document more compatible with the mandates set forth in the Public Resources Code (state park definition) and in the Declaration Of Purpose (Cuyamaca Rancho definition) which are quoted on pages 18-19 of the General Plan; *including but not limited to the*

- "Improvements may be undertaken" as long as they "involve no major modifications of lands, forests, or waters" (new equestrian facility, museum & parking, bridge over Sweetwater R. to campground would seem counter to this)
- Improvements "which are attractions in themselves...shall not be undertaken (large museum complex)
- Improvements "otherwise available...within a reasonable distance of the park ... shall not be undertaken" (large expansion of equestrian facilities)
- Program of resource management shall be based on "current and continuing scientific research" (not much in evidence in this proposed plan, other than meadows degradation)
- "The purpose of state parks shall be to preserve...to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes to the extent compatible with the primary purpose for which the park was established (which is "to preserve; "to perpetuate")."

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley Barling

(Ms.) Lesley Barling

CC: Wm. S. Briner
Jack Shu

State Parks + Recreation Commission

February 19, 1986
2022 Granada Avenue
San Diego, California, 92104

Mr. James M. Doyle, Director
Environmental Review Section
California Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O.Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

I am strongly in favor of preserving Cuyamaca Rancho State Park in its present state of development. It is, of course, a magnificent park, close to a major center of population, and yet one that offers picnicking, camping, hiking and horseback riding facilities for all its visitors while it also preserves the uncrowded beauty and wildness of the valleys and mountains of this wonderful area.

Less than one month ago I had the incredible luck to see a mountain lion standing calmly surveying his world, a broad meadow alongside the road north of Green Valley Falls camp. The time was near noon. The day was a quiet weekday. We watched him from the road as he watched us, and then as he sauntered slowly off into the trees.

This is what Cuyamaca is all about--the priceless world of nature. Here people come for a crowded Fourth of July weekend or an uncrowded weekend in fall, winter or spring. Here they find a forest of pine, cedar and oak, noisy bluejays, ravens, squirrels, deer, coyotes, raccoons, blossoming shrubs and flowers, hot dusty trails, shady trails, wind in the pines---and peace and quiet.

We are tremendously lucky to have this beautiful park and to have it so carefully developed as it is. Please consider its present benefits:

Camping and picnicking areas sufficiently scattered that they do not preempt all sense of seclusion in the groves of trees;

Hiking trails of great length and variety that are not so abundant as to destroy all sense of wildness;

Many, many miles of trails for horseback riding that still leave many areas free of trails of any kind.

I strongly recommend that serious consideration be given to preserving all the present beauties and benefits of Cuyamaca State Park by deciding against any expansion of facilities and trails.

Yours for a Cuyamaca that will be as wonderful for our grandchildren as it is for us today.

Roberta N. Goodrich
Roberta N. Goodrich

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FEB 24 1986

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6-1023

February 20, 1986

James M. Doyle, California Department
of Parks and Recreation,
Environmental Review Section,
Sacramento, California.

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The Cuyamaca Rancho State Park has rightly been called one of the jewels of the California State Park System. Let us keep it that way. It is a valuable piece of public real estate, an area to be protected and cherished, not over-developed.

Plans to increase picnic and camp sites, not to mention equestrian trails, are ill-advised. The area involved is fragile and can easily be degraded. Last year the park had 695,000 visitors, a heavy load for a park of only 26,500 acres. In our increasingly overcrowded urban world, the park's natural beauty is something people want and need. More camp sites and picnic areas, plus more horse

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trails, mean more cars, bigger parking lots and more restrooms, hardly a recipe for an idyllic park. If necessary, do what some of the larger parks are faced with, limit access on big summer weekends and holidays.

In any case, let's not be shortsighted. Let us ward off overdevelopment of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, save it, as largely unspoiled as possible, not only for ourselves, but as a legacy for the future.

Sincerely,
Lucile M Goodrich

February 14, 1986

Mr. James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Department of Parks and Recreation
Environmental Review Section
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Preliminary General Plan and Environmental Impact Report sent to me on January 16, 1986. The word "preliminary" suggests that there is more work to be done on the plan and that other documents will follow as a result. If so, I wish to receive copies^{of} them for review also.

My conclusions upon reading the two documents presented are that they are not adequate to serve the need for a Park General Plan and EIR. I must call upon you to present, instead, adequate management through a well considered General Plan which is consistent with the Purpose (p.7) and the Declaration of Intent (p.18). As it now stands, the Plan you have presented us with is open-ended in its potential for misuse because all the conclusions and outcomes ignore the precepts of preservation.

Ideally the Plan should present comprehensive discussions on land uses permissible in the park, consistent with the Purpose and Declaration, followed by Goals and Objectives. Only those that are consistent should be proposed. The EIR will address levels of significance and provide alternatives to replace proposed uses which do not meet this litmus test.

The EIR (3 pages) does not conform with CEQA. Perhaps your analysts would like to come to our County for a crash course in EIR writing. To imagine that a three page document will serve to review a 24,000 acre plus project site is ludicrous in the least and criminal in the extreme. Nowhere are levels of significance discussed or given objective evaluation. It would seem that several issues are clearly Significant and Not Mitigable (Biology-rare or endangered plants are throughout as well as wildlife habitat). No alternatives are presented to avoid impacts. The bottom line is that the proposed Plan won't be good for the Park or its resources but we must go ahead anyway.

The documents indicate the equestrian facilities are going to be expanded in what appears to be a disproportionate distribution when compared with the improvement of other facilities. Do we have here a set of unrevealed motives which will work to the benefit of that particular group upon completion? I should not have to remind you that we all support the Park, particularly as it is now, and it is to most of us more, by far, than just a "swell place to ride a horse".

Horses are highly destructive to the land and most wild groups have been rounded up in the west due to their impact. Anyone who appreciates the Park for its uniqueness will not want to endanger it with horse traffic. It is time for the responsible horse interests, you, and all of us to share the horse burden with other Park areas and public use lands. How about Palomar Mountain for an example? Let's find other areas for equestrian activities! As an environmental professional I urge you to reject this Plan and EIR and produce a balanced management plan that will serve the intrinsic values of the park first and people afterward.

Thank you,

Richard M. Gadler
Richard M. Gadler

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FEB 19 1986

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6-935

Feb. 18, 1986

Mr. James M. Doyle
Supervisor, Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento CA 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

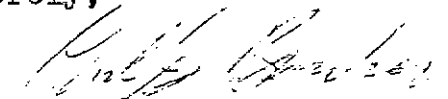
Though I have not had time to make a thorough and detailed study of the draft General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, I concur in the views expressed in the accompanying article by Paul Carlson and Mrs. Bell.

Having hiked in the Cuyamacas myself regularly for the past six or seven years I, too, feel that the suggested new facilities would dangerously impact a fragile ecosystem.

I feel that rather than try to attract large numbers of park users and expand facilities to accomodate them we should try to maintain the status quo, perhaps with a new horsemen's camp and staging area near Descanso.

Beyond that, I think we should expend all available funds and manpower resources on preserving the wonderful natural resource we have.

Sincerely,


Carl G. (Jerry) Brucker

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FEB 20 1986

RPD

6-954



San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club

House of Hospitality, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park
San Diego, California 92101

Reply to Joyce M. Alpert
1766 Treseder Circle
El Cajon, Ca. 92021

February 15, 1986

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Dept. of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, Ca. 95811

Re: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
Preliminary General Plan

Dear Mr. Doyle,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Preliminary General Plan.

The plan is well presented and clearly written, but contains many inconsistencies and contradictions. The plan is in conflict with the stated policy under the Public Resources Code, section 5019.53. It is also skewed in the direction of providing recreation facilities for a minority special interest group, rather than providing for the general population.

The Sierra Club believes that the carrying capacity of the park already exceeds the maximum. We propose that any further development would result in a degradation of park resources. The mission of the park, i.e., preservation of it's unique natural and archeological features would be best served by not increasing development.

Equestrian camps

According to the preliminary plan there is a proposed addition of numerous equestrian sites and an expansion of an existing equestrian campground. Trails near existing equestrian camps demonstrate that hooved animals have already heavily impacted the north portion of the park. Trail erosion is far greater in those areas than in other sections of the park. According to page 20 of the plan, "The surface texture of the soils is extremely susceptible to disturbance and dislocation." "Destructive soil erosion is occurring in several locations in the park,around heavily used facilities and trails." Increasing overnight sites for horses could only add to the destructive erosion.

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The statement on page 39 that the most well-defined recreation need is for horse/people is misleading, since it was defined by that user-group. A special interest group should not be in a position to define a need for a state park. The need must clearly represent all the people, especially those who may not have representatives defining their needs as vocally.

In referring to equestrian campsites, the statement is made (page 39) that "MAINTENANCE OF SUCH FACILITIES IS MUCH GREATER THAN FOR STANDARD FAMILY CAMPSITES." (emphasis mine) A disproportionate share of state park funds should not be devoted to repair and maintenance of special user group sites.

According to page 38 there are many other suppliers, both public and private, of equestrian campsites in the area surrounding Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Any additional horse campsites should be located outside of the park itself.

Ticketron and reservation problems

The equestrian people expressed (via the plan) that they have had problems finding a campsite in the summer, and that they could not acquire a site through Ticketron. The same problem exists for families, individuals and youth groups. The problem apparently lies in the Ticketron system, the solution of which is outside the scope of the CRSP plan, and should not be used to justify expansion of the campgrounds.

Park Acquisition

We support the acquisition of Lucky 5 Ranch to be added to Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, and any other appropriate lands contiguous to the park.

Expansion of Campsites

Expansion of campsites should be undertaken only if new land is acquired by the park. Expansion, then, should be directed to providing campsites for people, rather than using the land to house horses overnight. The same amount of developed space could serve three times the human population over horse/people sites with far less impact on the park, its resources or services.

Rehabilitation and Upgrading

The Sierra Club supports rehabilitation and upgrading of existing campgrounds and trail systems. We encourage upgrading of the museum and its collections.

If new trails or a realignment of trails are planned, they should be balanced by the closure of existing trails or portions of trail to allow for recovery, resulting in no net increase in trail mileage.

Lakeside area

There should no development of campsites in the Lakeside area. It appears that development would require upgrading of existing private sewage facilities. No campground development should be considered unless the area comes under the ownership of the State Park at some future time. Lakeside is a poor choice for campsites since it is adjacent to Highway 79, subjecting potential campers to road noise and fumes. People driving through the park on Highway 79 would not have an open view of the lake and natural surroundings, but rather a congested public area.

Competitive Events (page 33)

Sierra Club believes that competitive events have no place in the state park. Rather than consider the events on a "case by case" basis, they should not be considered at all. Such events would be in conflict with Public Resources Code 5019.53.

Summation

We must not lose sight of the initial purpose in the establishment of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park: Preservation of it's unique natural features. This mandate should carry the overriding weight in the general plan, rather than user need. As stated on page 71 of the plan, "Current demand far exceeds capacity and this would probably not be altered by the proposed additional facilities." (emphasis mine). It is notable that the chart on page 42 clearly shows that the greatest visitor use and growth is by "free day use" visitors, who do not use campgrounds.

Additional campgrounds would increase the population in the park at peak times, creating more problems in monitoring, controlling and regulating the dispersal throughout the park. An unavoidable increased impact on wildlife and flora, increased erosion and degradation will be attendant.

Sierra Club urges the park to direct it's funds and energies toward maintenance of the facilities it now has, upgrading where needed. We recommend that no new campsite development take place in keeping with Public Resource Code 5019.53 which states that improvements may take place "as long as such improvements involve no major modifications of lands, forest or waters."

We applaud the effort to acquire additional lands to increase park size. This would increase protection of the unique natural features, offering more area for dispersal of visitors, and thereby reduce the impact on highly used or sensitive areas.

Thank you,



cc: Jack Shu, Supt.
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Joyce Alpert
for Sierra Club
San Diego Chapter

Mr James M Doyle, Supervisor
Enviromental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento CA 95811

February 18, 1986


Dear Mr Doyle,

I have reviewed the Preliminary General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, dated January 1986, and have enclosed my suggestions related to it.

There is reference to the publication "Cultural Resources Inventory" which I would find very helpful in understanding the details of the Plan. I would like to know how to obtain a copy of this Inventory.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Plan. Please keep my name on the mailing list for future Newsletters and publications.

Sincerely,


Leonard L. Fry
676 Margarita Ave
Coronado CA 92118

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COMMENTS-PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN FOR CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK

1. VISITOR SUPPORT FACILITIES SUMMARY CHART, PP. 3-4:

- A. SUGGEST CHART BE MOVED TO THE LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT, FOLLOWING PAGE 50, TO SUMMARIZE DETAILS IN THE PRECEDING TEXT.
- B. SUGGEST EXPLANATIONS BE INCLUDED IN THE PLAN FOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THIS CHART IN THE PLAN, AND THE CHART INCLUDED WITH NEWSLETTER 2:
 - a. LOS VAQUEROS EQUESTRIAN GROUP CAMP - CURRENT CAPACITY 45 PERSONS (VS. 80 PERSONS)
 - b. DESCANSO EQUESTRIAN GROUP CAMP - PROPOSED ADDITIONS 15-25 HORSES (VS. 8-13 HORSES)
 - c. DAY USE PARKING ON ROUTE 79 - CURRENT CAPACITY 250 CARS (VS. 627 CARS)
- C. SUGGEST THE CHART ON PAGE 45 BE INCORPORATED WITH THIS CHART, BY THE ADDITION OF "CURRENT ACREAGE" AND "PROPOSED ADDITIONAL ACREAGE" COLUMNS TO THE VISITOR SUPPORT FACILITIES CHART, WITH THESE COLUMNS COMPLETED FOR EACH FACILITY. (THE CURRENT ACREAGE COLUMN ON PAGE 45 ACCOUNTS FOR A TOTAL OF 155 ACRES VS. 290 ACRES SHOWN)
- D. SUGGEST THAT EXPLANATIONS BE INCLUDED IN THE PLAN FOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CHART ON PAGE 45 IN THE PLAN, AND THE CHART ON PAGE 11 OF THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF THE LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT, INCLUDING:
 - a. DESCANSO AREA - ADDITIONAL 3 ACRES (VS. 1 ACRE)
 - b. CUYAMACA LAKE AREA - ADDITIONAL 16 ACRES (VS. 13 ACRES)
 - c. DAY USE PARKING AT ROADSIDE - NOT LISTED (VS. CURRENT 7 ACRES, ADDITIONAL 20 ACRES)

2. STATE WILDERNESS:

- A. SUGGEST CURRENT AND PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON USE BE INCLUDED IN THE PLAN.
- B. SUGGEST THAT CURRENT STATUS AS "PROPOSED" (PAGE 12) OR "ESTABLISHED" (PAGE 8) BE CLARIFIED.

3. CURRENT LAND USE, PROPOSED LAND USE TEXT, PAGES 44-45:

SUGGEST THE VARIOUS ACREAGES MENTIONED IN THE TEXT BE LISTED IN CHART FORM; BEGINNING WITH THE TOTAL ACREAGE OF PARK LAND, AND DECREASING WITH EACH CATEGORY LISTED, TO THE ACREAGE AVAILABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT.

4. PROPOSED PHASING OF DEVELOPMENT LIST, PAGE 50:

SUGGEST THE LIST SHOULD INCLUDE:

- a. TRAIL CAMPS - EXPANSION OF EXISTING CAMPS
- b. LAKE VIEW DAY USE PICNIC AREA - DEVELOPMENT
- c. STONEWALL MINE DAY USE PICNIC - EXPANSION

5. GLOSSARY:

SUGGEST A GLOSSARY TO EXPLAIN TERMS USED IN THE PLAN BE ADDED TO THE PLAN, TO INCLUDE:

- a. "UNDEVELOPED" / "WILDERNESS" / "OPEN SPACE"
- b. "MEADOWS" / "FLATS"

6. INDEX:

SUGGEST AN INDEX BE ADDED TO THE PLAN.

7. MAP CO-ORDINATES:

SUGGEST AT LEAST ONE MAP HAVE NUMBER/LETTER CO-ORDINATES PRINTED ON ITS BORDERS. THE CO-ORDINATES SHOULD BE LISTED FOR PLACE NAMES IN THE INDEX, AND WITH THE FIRST REFERENCE TO A PLACE NAME IN THE TEXT.

8. MAP #2 (ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY):

SUGGEST THAT COLORS OR VARIOUS SHADINGS BE USED TO INDICATE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES.

FEBRUARY 18, 1986

LEONARD L. FRY
676 MARGARITA AVE
CORONADO CA 92118

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Comments received during the review period provided under the California Environmental Quality Act have received the responses below. The numbers of each response corresponds to the indicated numbered sections in the comments letters. Included for information purposes are letters received after the close of the review. Generally, the issues and points raised in these late letters are similar to those for which responses have been made.

1. While the General Plan apparently provides more facilities for equestrians, it does not necessarily provide these facilities at the loss of recreational opportunities for other users. The typical day user does not require many or elaborate facilities. Small increases in day-use facilities reflect a greater proportion of day use. The proposed ratio of horse campsites to conventional campsites (79 to 145) would seem unusual unless viewed in a regional analysis; there are considerably more private and public conventional campsites in the immediate vicinity.
2. The confusion is a result of a newsletter put out by this Department on January 8. The newsletter indicated that there was a 45-day review period, but gave neither the starting or ending dates of the review period. All letters transmitting the General Plan for CEQA review either stated the end of the review period or indicated a 45-day review period starting on the date of the letter.
3. The Environmental Impact Element and the Plan Objectives (page 3) state that the entire document is the environmental document required under CEQA. It also states that as specific plans are developed to implement the General Plan, they will be subject to the requirements of CEQA. The degree of specificity reflects the specificity of the General Plan. For example, we cannot estimate the loss of vegetation from the construction of a campground without knowing the alignment of roads, parking spurs, and the locations of table platforms, restrooms, water lines, etc. The General Plan does not have this detail. It does provide a range of possible capacities that were considered reasonable in view of the available developable area and environmental constraints, or a specific use may be proposed without any indication of size, such as the proposed museum near the park headquarters. We feel that the degree of specificity of the Environmental Impact Element is appropriate for the General Plan and its purpose of being a guideline for future management and development decisions.
4. See Response #3. Specific impacts of the proposals are impossible to estimate without site specific plans. In regard to impacts on wildlife, it should be noted that all the development proposals, except the two on North Peak, are in areas adjacent to existing development and roadways; impacts to wildlife, even large, reclusive animals, were not considered significant.
5. Without site specific development plans, the determination that the project will "reduce the number or restrict the range of rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of major periods of California history or prehistory" could only be conjecture. The proposed development areas generally avoid areas of known rare or endangered plants with the exception of the proposed Cuyamaca Lakeside campground. See Response #19 in regard to impacts to cultural resources.

6. A Statement of Overriding Considerations is part of the Notice of Determination, not part of the EIR. Mitigation measures for the unavoidable environmental effects are found under the section of Mitigation Measures on page 76. Soil disturbance mitigation measures are Numbers 3, 5, and 6. The mitigation measures for indirect impacts of increased use are Numbers 3, 4, 5, and 6 in the Mitigation Measures section and in the Unavoidable Environmental Effects section. Other mitigation measures are described in the Resource Element as policy measures.
7. The demand for recreational facilities exceeds the supply in the San Diego area. The use of Cuyamaca Rancho SP is likely to increase regardless of the construction or lack of construction of facilities. There is no way to limit public use along Highway 79 short of closing the road for which the Department has no authority. Without the development of facilities and trails, the public will be more inclined to choose their own trails and use areas generally without regard for environmental considerations but rather considerations of convenience or desire. We recognize that impacts to trails and services in campgrounds increase from excess use; the proposal to increase these facilities will reduce the intensity of use during lower use periods and allow some recovery. During peak use periods, they will be full.

As visitation increases, the number of those who will purposefully or accidentally violate regulations of resources can also increase. Education and interpretation, as well as additional patrol, can reduce this problem. Channeling use into non-sensitive or less-sensitive areas can reduce the accidental destruction of critical resources.

8. Those areas proposed for new development will not be irreversibly impacted by the development; generally, the development can be removed and the area returned essentially to its pre-project state. Our definition of irreversibility is that once the project is implemented, the values, resources, materials, and site characteristics can never be regained or restored. It is considered reversible if those factors can be restored or regained, but not that they necessarily will be.
9. The plan does not propose a 40% increase in use. While some of the facilities may be increased by 40%, the greatest proportion of use is day use and is relatively independent of the capacity or number of facilities available.
10. The comparison is misleading. Yosemite National Park appears to have a lower density of use. However, Yosemite NP is ten times larger than Cuyamaca Rancho SP and most of the area is inaccessible to the average visitor. Cuyamaca Rancho SP is subject to the normal wear and tear of facilities. There is no evidence of wildlife reduction or environmental degradation as a result of normal park use at the current level of visitation.

No upper limits of use were established; the limit of use is variable with the type of use, the environmental conditions, and the perceptions of the users. As these are constantly changing, no absolute number can be established. The General Plan is a guideline for development and management; ideally, a continuous monitoring program of environmental impacts and use would provide the best information for determining the

prevailing limits of use. Whatever recreational opportunities are increased at Cuyamaca Rancho SP will help to relieve recreational demand in San Diego County. The development proposed in the General Plan is purposely phased to allow the monitoring of the resources to determine if environmental degradation is occurring. The alternative of decreased development due to environmental constraints or degradation is not prohibited or excluded by the General Plan.

11. The statement on page 39 that the most well-defined recreational need is for horse/people camping is correct. It is the most well-defined need because it is supported by use counts and "turnaway" estimates, and these user groups are organized and have presented their views at the various public meetings and workshops.

Concerns and complaints regarding the mounted assistance units should be made to the staff at the state park.

12. The proposal of acquisition of French Valley and Mendenhall Valley is beyond the scope of the General Plan. However, the General Plan does recommend the acquisition of the Lucky 5 Ranch. Any future use of the Lucky 5 Ranch as part of Cuyamaca Rancho SP would be based on the normal planning process.
13. The aim of marketing is not the simple expansion of use of Cuyamaca Rancho SP, but to encourage to enjoy and direct the public to the different resources of the State Park System. In this manner, the public will know where to find the resources and opportunities of their choice. Better distribution of use in terms of time and place would reduce the impacts to those units that are suffering from overuse. Those who appreciate the resources and qualities of Cuyamaca Rancho SP may find alternative State Park System units to visit.
14. Both the state park and the district share a common environment for their recreation facilities. It is in the common interest of both parties to see that the environmental impacts be kept to the minimum in the development of facilities. The decision for providing sewage disposal on state park lands will be chiefly based on environmental considerations.
15. Each event will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Rather than an across-the-board ban on any such events, the Department feels that each event should be weighed on its merits in regard to its relationship to the enjoyment of the prime resources of the park and its environmental impacts. Those events which are unrelated to the enjoyment of the prime resources of the park, cause significant adverse impacts, and are attractions in and of themselves shall be denied permits.
16. See Response #7.
17. The state park has not been surveyed in its entirety. Thus far, 250 Native American sites have been recorded in the state park's 24,560 acres. It is likely that there are still more sites remaining unrecorded. The Cultural Resources section of the Resource Element recognizes this and directs the Department to continue surveys for cultural resources, especially prior to any prescribed burn or construction of any hiking and riding trails.

Many known recorded sites are located along fire roads and trails in the state park. These sites have suffered damage in the past. The General Plan directs the Department to relocate or remove roads away from these sites.

Steatite or soapstone traditionally was an important trade commodity for Native Americans. There is a recorded soapstone quarry in the state park. The Department recognizes the significance of this quarry and has designated the area as a cultural preserve, the most protective classification an area can receive. The General Plan further restricts any collection of this resource.

Over the years, Native American sites have been damaged by the actions of the Boy Scouts and the city-county camp through hiking trips to sites and subsequent surface collection of artifacts. There is no doubt that there has been some "pot-hunting" of Native American sites in the past. The General Plan recognizes the problem and directs the Department to investigate and prepare a course of action to prevent the exploitation of cultural resources by such groups. The Operations Element of the General Plan also notes that access to remote sections of the state park may be restricted or regulated by permit to protect natural and cultural resources.

18. The plan does not present specific development plans; only general areas for development are indicated with a range of possible facility capacity and appropriate type of use (i.e., 15 to 30 family campsites). The development proposals have been compared with maps of the known cultural resources; with the exception of the Stonewall Mine area, no new development is proposed in areas of known sensitivity. However, as site specific plans are drawn up, they will be subject to further review and on-site checks by cultural resource specialists.
19. The General Plan is a guideline for the development and management of the state park; however, it is not the "last word" and "sole guiding statement for park management". The General Plan is subject to amendments and revisions as the need arises. New policies affecting the entire State Park System may be enacted. The General Plan is not a static document nor are the resource management and development programs inflexible. As has been stated before, specific development proposals will be subject to further CEQA review.
20. The priority was based on developing replacement or rehabilitating existing overused and deteriorating facilities first.
21. See Response #3.
22. The Table of Contents is found at the front of the Preliminary General Plan.
23. See Response #6. The point of discussing "unmet demand" in the review of alternatives was to recognize that the Department has to balance the sometime conflicting goals of preservation and provision of recreational opportunities. A review of the Allowable Use Intensity Map and the Resource Element and its policy will indicate that the proposed development and recreational uses have been sited to avoid environmental impacts and degradation of the resources.

24. The direct and indirect environmental impacts to cultural sites and special interest, rare or endangered plants or animals are identified in the Resource Element and in the Environmental Impact Element. They are not "defined" because the development proposals lack sufficient detail to determine and evaluate the extent of the impact. It is recognized that the potential for impact exists, and site specific development plans shall be reviewed with regard to these factors.
25. A variety of policies in the Resource Element regarding soils, flora, fauna, cultural resources, sensitive habitats, etc., outline the design constraints on trail design and construction. See Response #15.
26. Less than 2% or about 400 acres of the park's total acreage is developed or proposed for development. Over half the park (13,200 acres) has been classified in two wildernesses and about 10% (2,560 acres) is within four cultural preserves. We believe this represents a reasonable effort in balancing the needs of preservation versus those of recreation.
27. The statement has been misquoted. The statement on page 44 reads, "The steep, sloping lands (more than 15 percent slope) are recommended for open space, and (as necessary) for trail use." This is consistent with the plan finding that soils of the park are extremely susceptible to disturbance and displacement.
28. The statement on page 78 was not meant to infer that road and trail crossings are not considered as projects or that they caused no adverse impacts to wetlands, riparian, or meadow areas. No development was proposed in wetlands or meadows because of their sensitivity and inappropriateness for development. There are Category 1 lands identified in the Allowable Use Intensity section of the General Plan which states, "Category 1 lands are open for public access by foot; however, no formal trails shall be constructed into or through these areas." The South End equestrian camp is bordered by Descanso Creek; it is possible that a trail or trails may cross the creek and impact the riparian area. Similar impacts might occur at the proposed expansion of the Green Valley Falls campground along Arroyo Seco, an ephemeral tributary of the Sweetwater River.
29. It is the Department's practice to consult with representatives of the local Native American groups whenever development is being considered in known or suspected sensitive areas.
30. The Boy Scout comments propose minor changes in the wording of certain policies of the Resource Element. No response is necessary.
31. See Response #3.